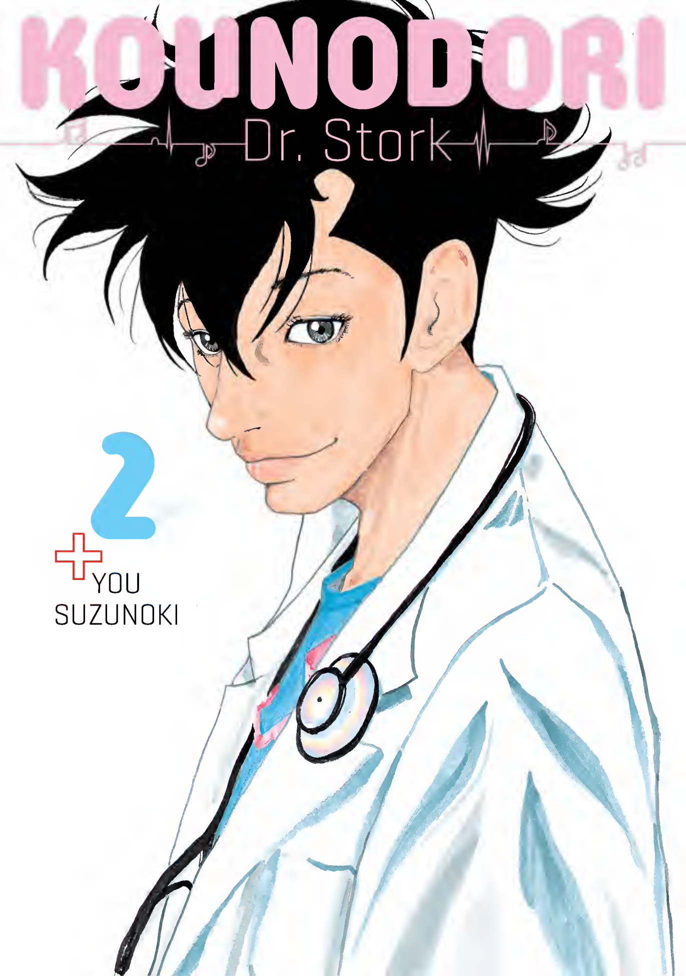
KOUNODORI

Dr. Stork



2

YOU
SUZUNOKI

KOUNODORI

Dr. Stork

2

CONTENTS

TRACK 4 Teenage Pregnancy ·············· 3

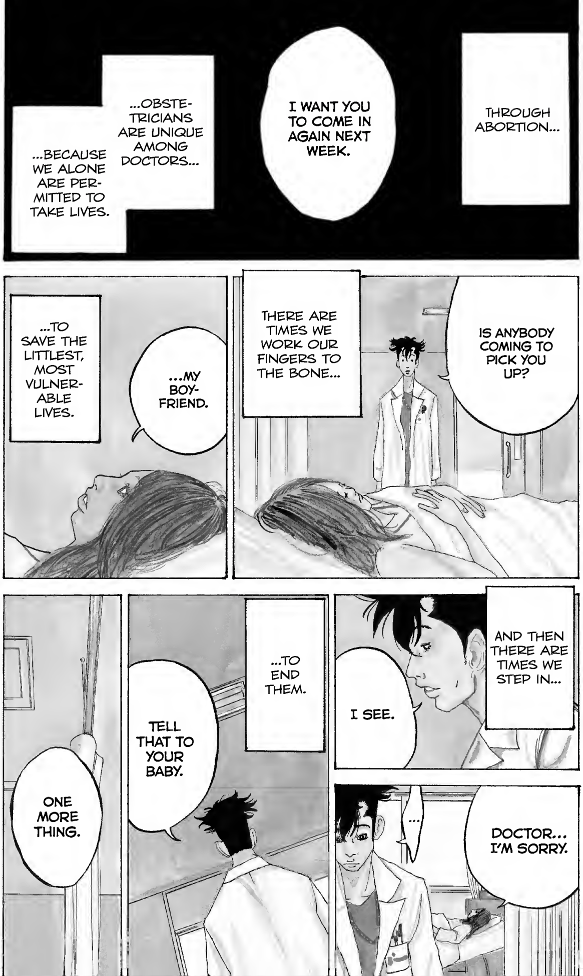
TRACK 5 Anencephaly ························· 87

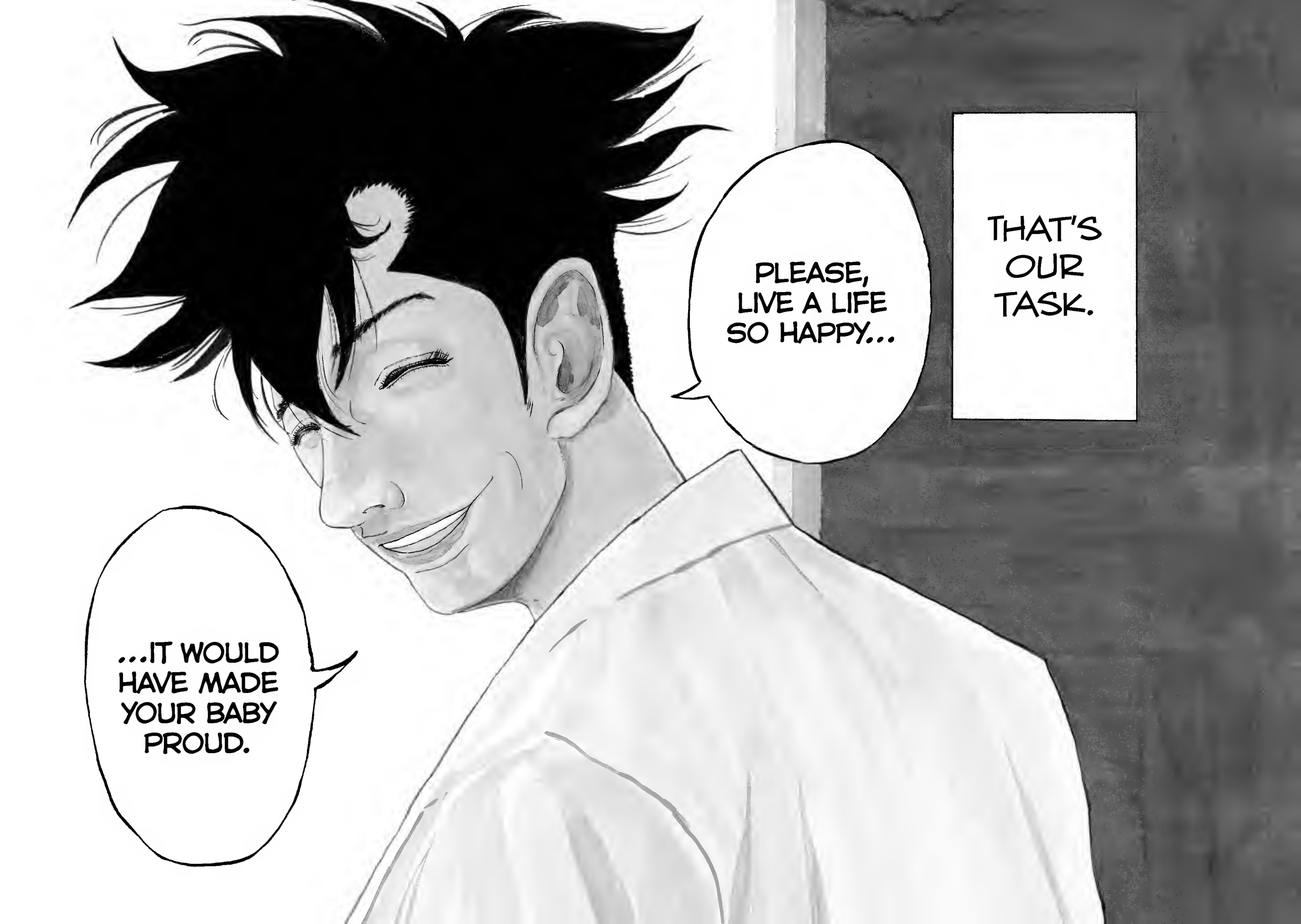
TRACK 6 Caul Child ······························ 157

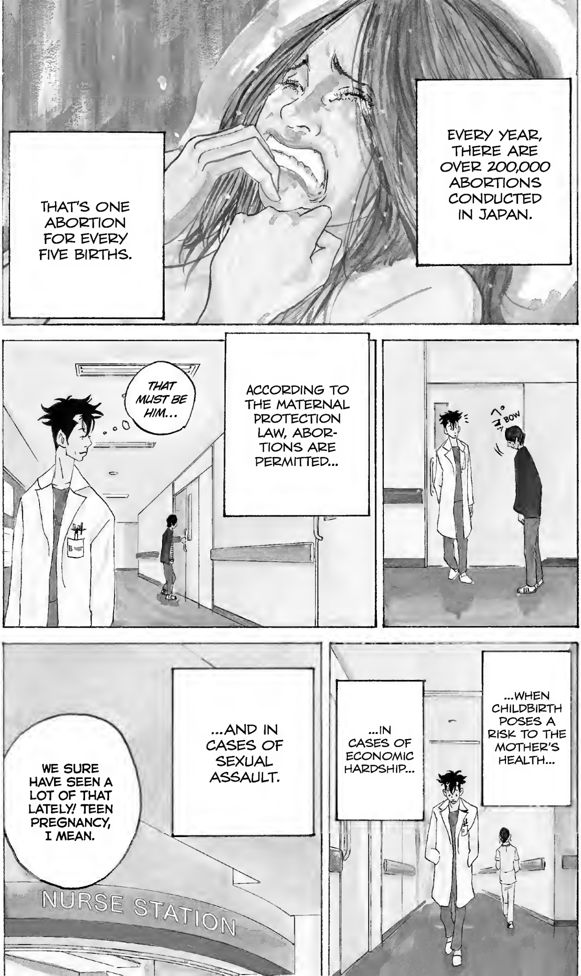
TRACK 7 Maternal Smoking ················ 179

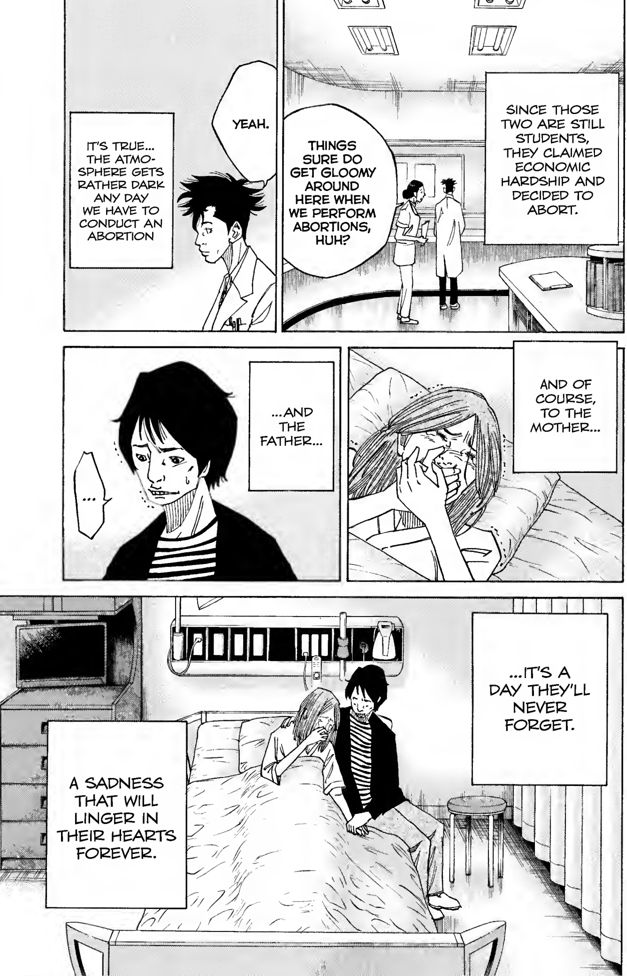
TRACK 4

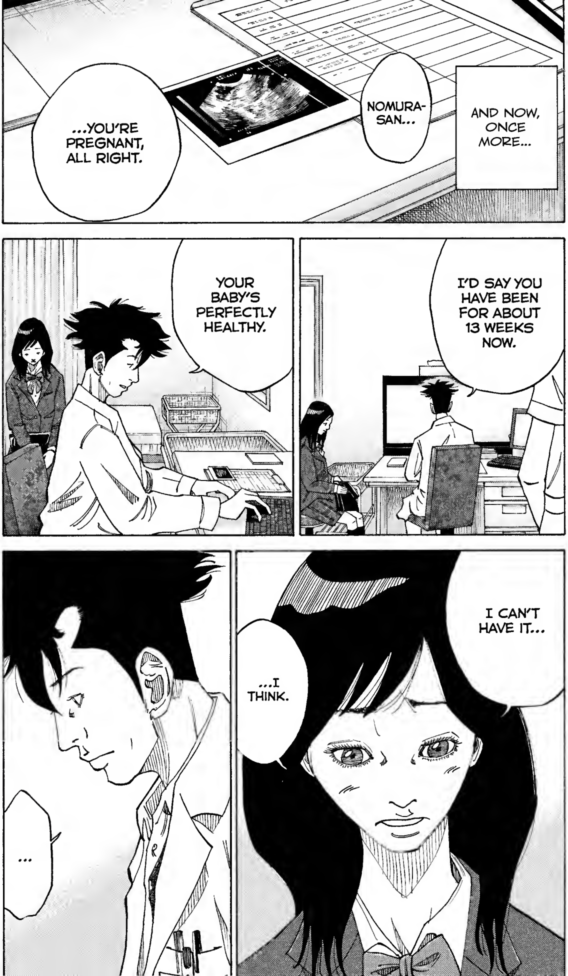
Teenage Pregnancy

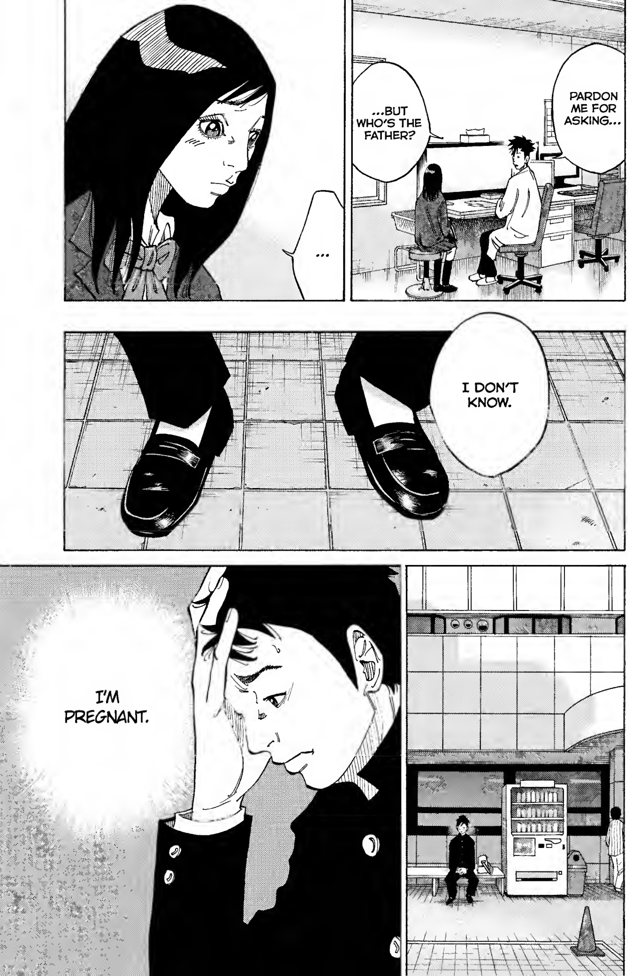

THROUGH ABORTION...
I WANT YOU TO COME IN AGAIN NEXT WEEK.
...OBSTETRICIANS ARE UNIQUE AMONG DOCTORS...
...BECAUSE WE ALONE ARE PERMITTED TO TAKE LIVES.
IS ANYBODY COMING TO PICK YOU UP?
THERE ARE TIMES WE WORK OUR FINGERS TO THE BONE...
...MY BOYFRIEND.
...TO SAVE THE LITTLEST, MOST VULNERABLE LIVES.
AND THEN THERE ARE TIMES WE STEP IN...
I SEE.
DOCTOR... I'M SORRY.
...
...TO END THEM.
TELL THAT TO YOUR BABY.
ONE MORE THING.

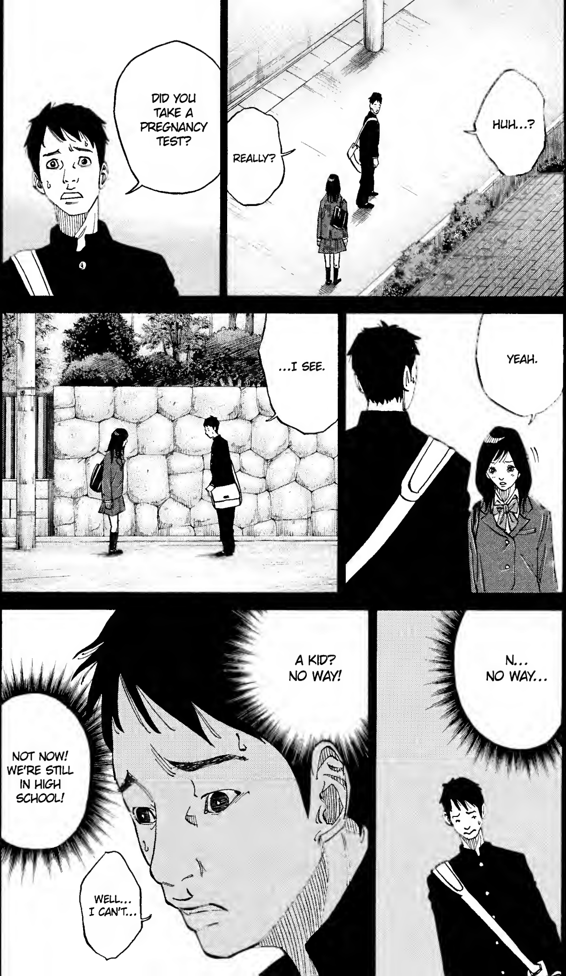

THAT'S OUR TASK.
PLEASE, LIVE A LIFE SO HAPPY...
...IT WOULD HAVE MADE YOUR BABY PROUD.

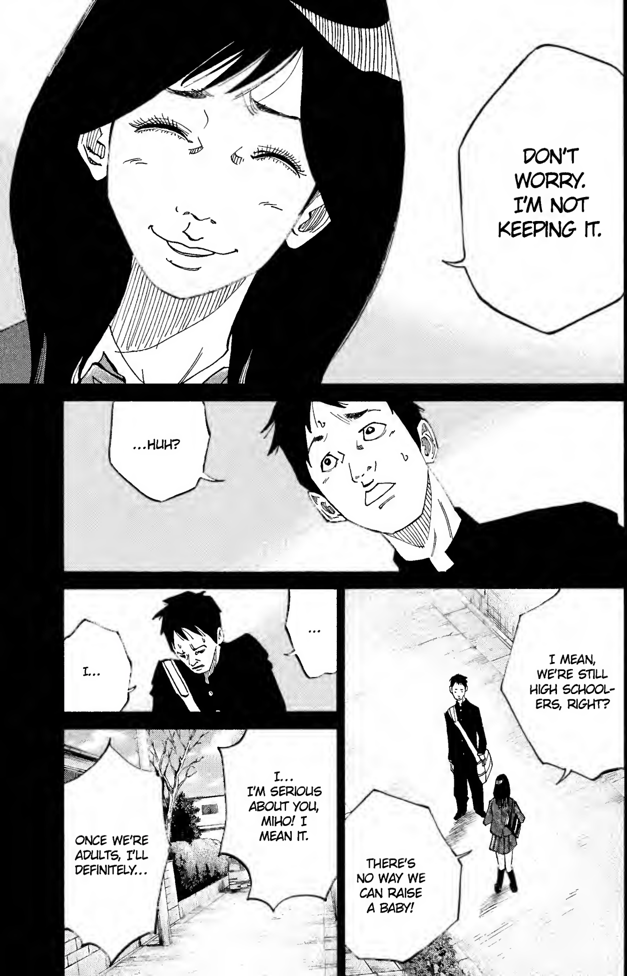

EVERY YEAR, THERE ARE OVER 200,000 ABORTIONS CONDUCTED IN JAPAN.
THAT'S ONE ABORTION FOR EVERY FIVE BIRTHS.
BOW
THAT MUST BE HIM...
ACCORDING TO THE MATERNAL PROTECTION LAW, ABORTIONS ARE PERMITTED...
...WHEN CHILDBIRTH POSES A RISK TO THE MOTHER'S HEALTH...
...IN CASES OF ECONOMIC HARDSHIP...
...AND IN CASES OF SEXUAL ASSAULT.
WE SURE HAVE SEEN A LOT OF THAT LATELY! TEEN PREGNANCY, I MEAN.
NURSE STATION

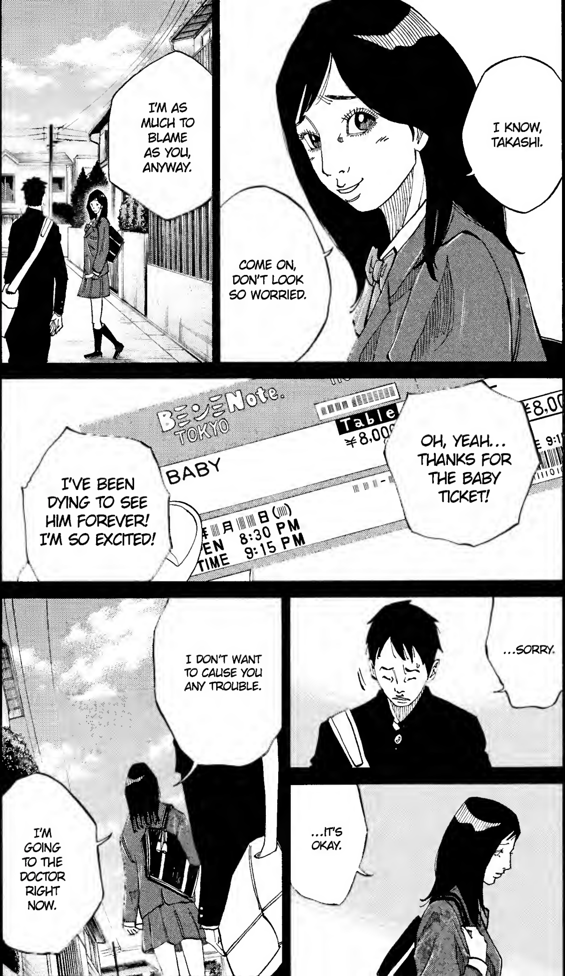

SINCE THOSE TWO ARE STILL STUDENTS, THEY CLAIMED ECONOMIC HARDSHIP AND DECIDED TO ABORT.
THINGS SURE DO GET GLOOMY AROUND HERE WHEN WE PERFORM ABORTIONS, HUH?
YEAH.
IT'S TRUE... THE ATMOSPHERE GETS RATHER DARK ANY DAY WE HAVE TO CONDUCT AN ABORTION
AND OF COURSE, TO THE MOTHER...
...AND THE FATHER...
...
...IT'S A DAY THEY'LL NEVER FORGET.
A SADNESS THAT WILL LINGER IN THEIR HEARTS FOREVER.

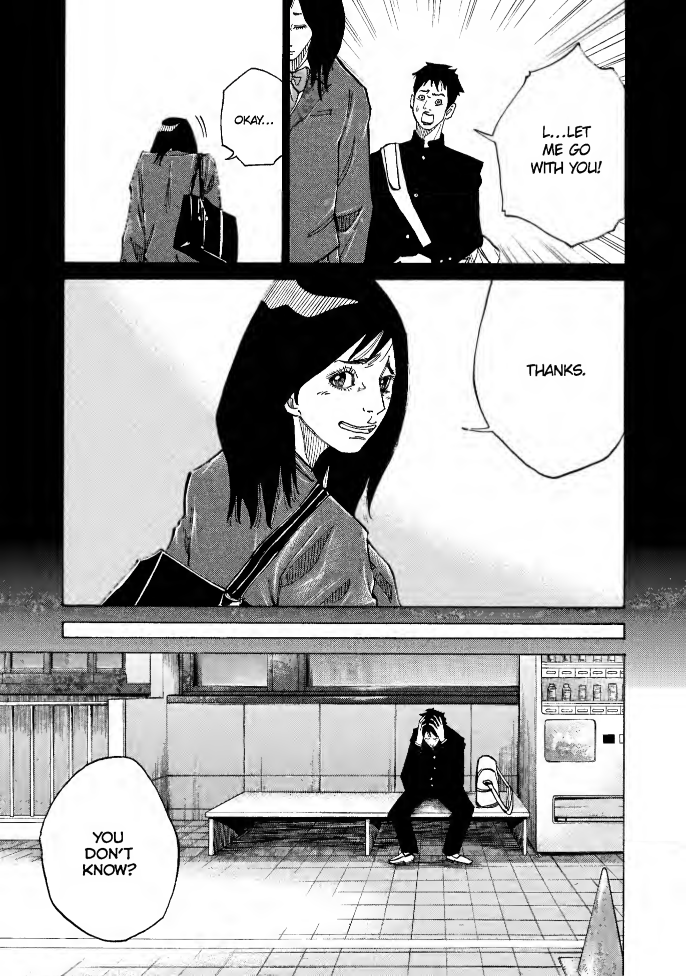

AND NOW, ONCE MORE...
NOMURA-SAN...
...YOU'RE PREGNANT, ALL RIGHT.
I'D SAY YOU HAVE BEEN FOR ABOUT 13 WEEKS NOW.
YOUR BABY'S PERFECTLY HEALTHY.
I CAN'T HAVE IT...
...I THINK.
...

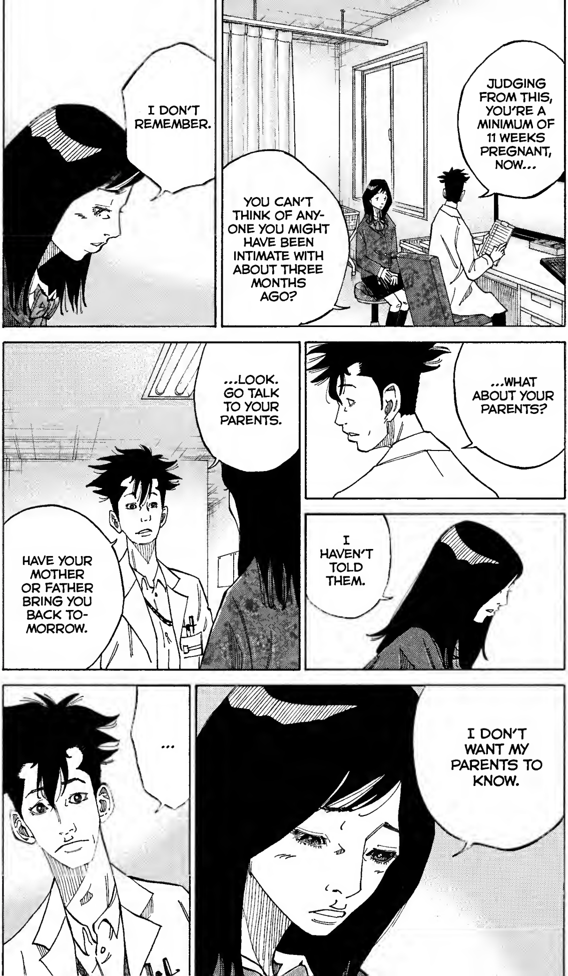

PARDON ME FOR ASKING...
...BUT WHO'S THE FATHER?
...
I DON'T KNOW.
I'M PREGNANT.

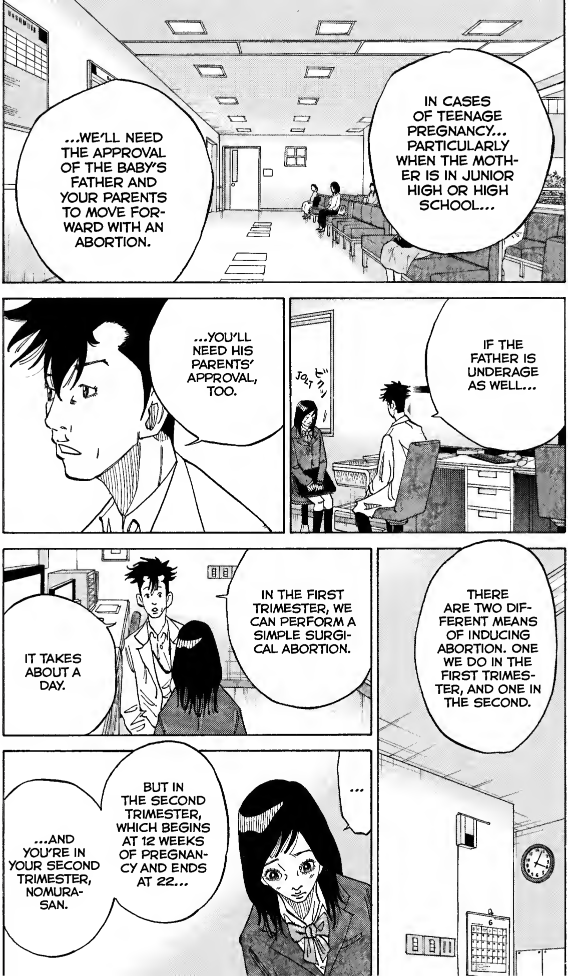

HUH...?
REALLY?
DID YOU TAKE A PREGNANCY TEST?
YEAH.
...I SEE.
N... NO WAY...
A KID? NO WAY!
NOT NOW! WE'RE STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL!
WELL... I CAN'T...

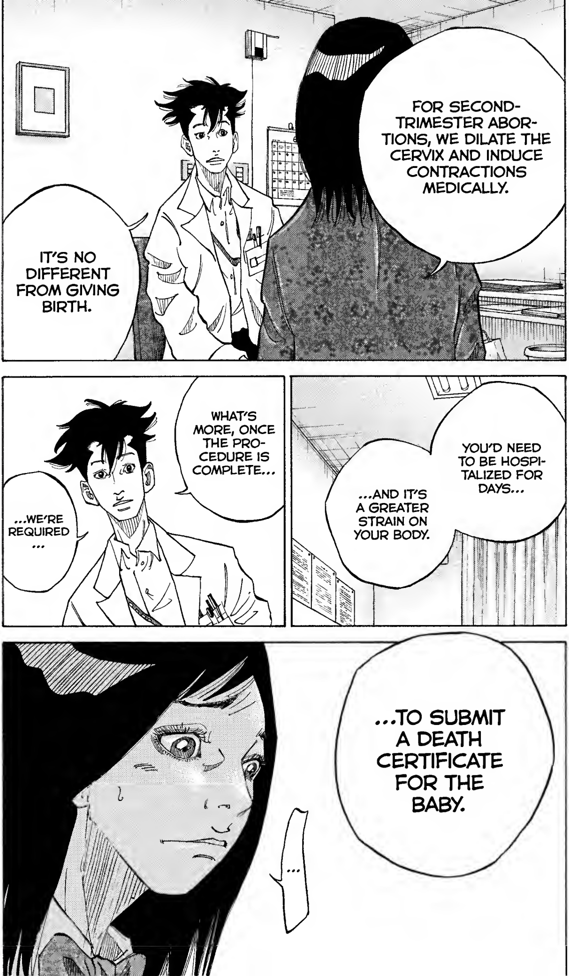

DON'T WORRY. I'M NOT KEEPING IT.
...HUH?
I MEAN, WE'RE STILL HIGH SCHOOLERS, RIGHT?
THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN RAISE A BABY!
...
I...
I... I'M SERIOUS ABOUT YOU, MIHO! I MEAN IT.
ONCE WE'RE ADULTS, I'LL DEFINITELY...

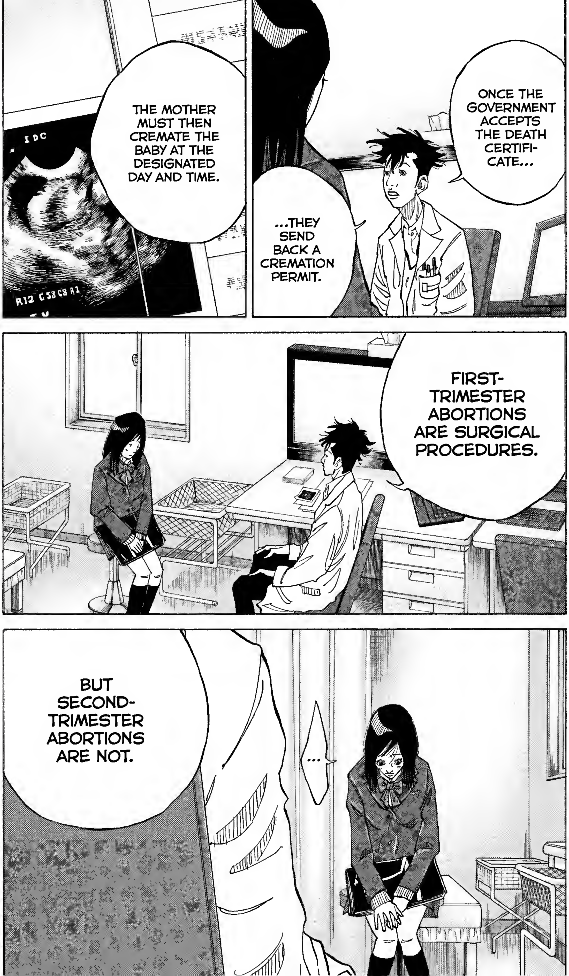

I KNOW, TAKASHI.
COME ON, DON'T LOOK SO WORRIED.
I'M AS MUCH TO BLAME AS YOU, ANYWAY.
OH, YEAH... THANKS FOR THE BABY TICKET!
I'VE BEEN DYING TO SEE HIM FOREVER! I'M SO EXCITED!
TOKYO
Table
¥8,00
BABY
EN 8:30 PM
TIME 9:15 PM
...SORRY.
I DON'T WANT TO CAUSE YOU ANY TROUBLE.
...IT'S OKAY.
I'M GOING TO THE DOCTOR RIGHT NOW.

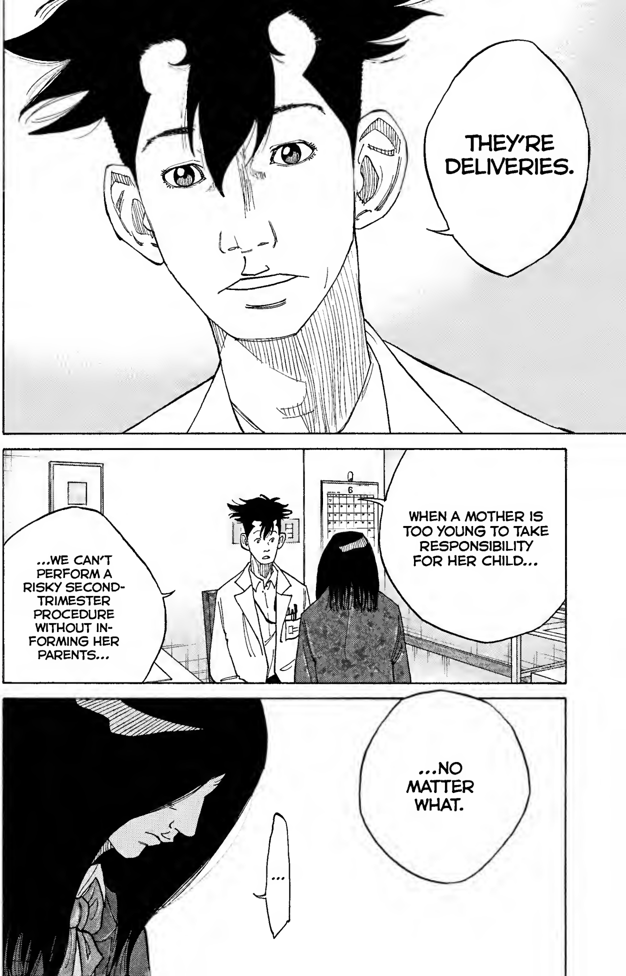

L...LET ME GO WITH YOU!
OKAY...
THANKS.
YOU DON'T KNOW?

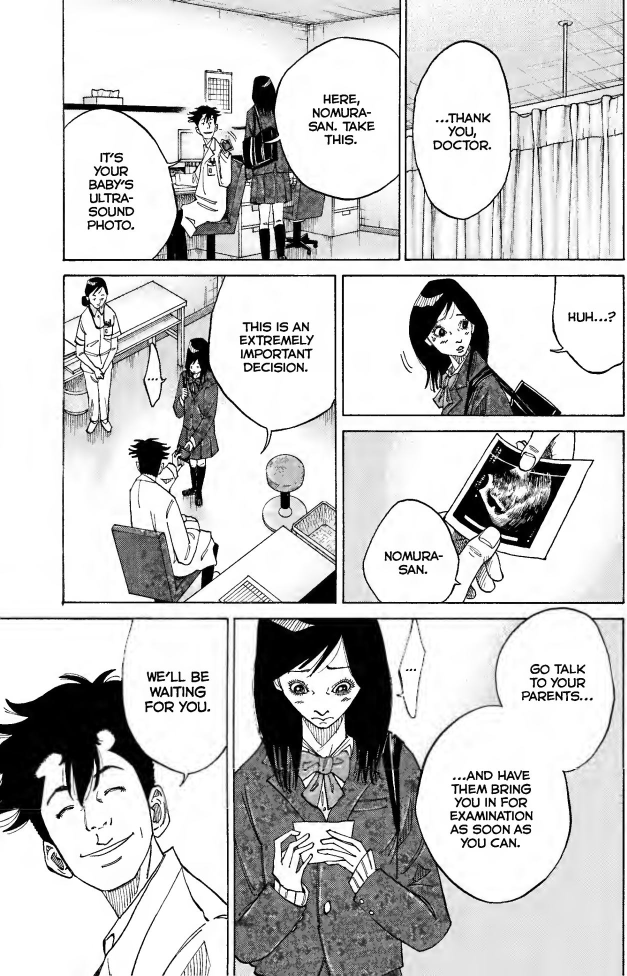

JUDGING FROM THIS, YOU'RE A MINIMUM OF 11 WEEKS PREGNANT, NOW...
YOU CAN'T THINK OF ANYONE YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN INTIMATE WITH ABOUT THREE MONTHS AGO?
I DON'T REMEMBER.
...WHAT ABOUT YOUR PARENTS?
I HAVEN'T TOLD THEM.
...LOOK. GO TALK TO YOUR PARENTS.
HAVE YOUR MOTHER OR FATHER BRING YOU BACK TOMORROW.
I DON'T WANT MY PARENTS TO KNOW.
...

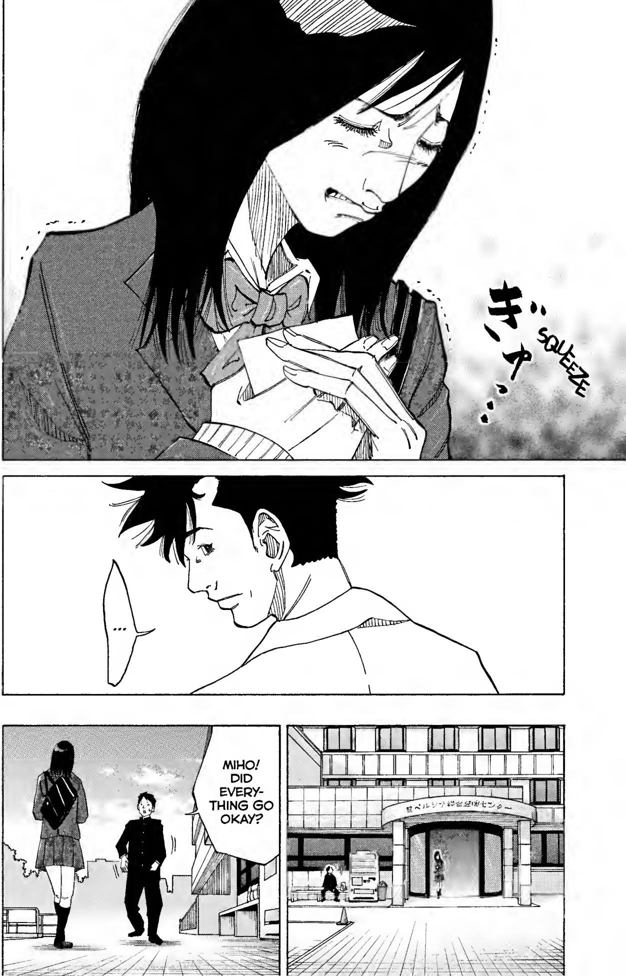

IN CASES OF TEENAGE PREGNANCY... PARTICULARLY WHEN THE MOTHER IS IN JUNIOR HIGH OR HIGH SCHOOL...
...WE'LL NEED THE APPROVAL OF THE BABY'S FATHER AND YOUR PARENTS TO MOVE FORWARD WITH AN ABORTION.
IF THE FATHER IS UNDERAGE AS WELL...
JOLT ビクッ
...YOU'LL NEED HIS PARENTS' APPROVAL, TOO.
THERE ARE TWO DIFFERENT MEANS OF INDUCING ABORTION. ONE WE DO IN THE FIRST TRIMESTER, AND ONE IN THE SECOND.
IN THE FIRST TRIMESTER, WE CAN PERFORM A SIMPLE SURGICAL ABORTION.
IT TAKES ABOUT A DAY.
...
BUT IN THE SECOND TRIMESTER, WHICH BEGINS AT 12 WEEKS OF PREGNANCY AND ENDS AT 22...
...AND YOU'RE IN YOUR SECOND TRIMESTER, NOMURA-SAN.

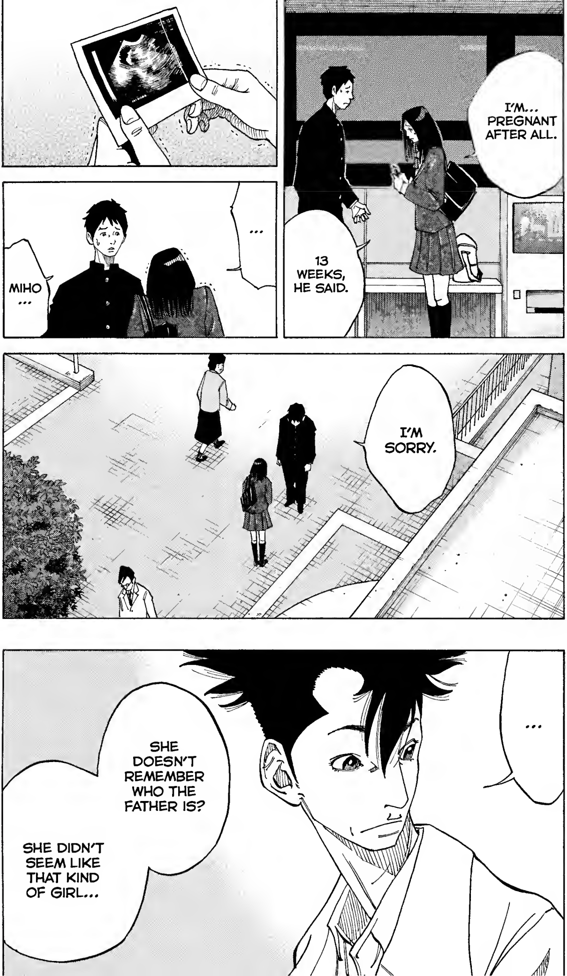

FOR SECOND-TRIMESTER ABORTIONS, WE DILATE THE CERVIX AND INDUCE CONTRACTIONS MEDICALLY.
IT'S NO DIFFERENT FROM GIVING BIRTH.
YOU'D NEED TO BE HOSPITALIZED FOR DAYS...
...AND IT'S A GREATER STRAIN ON YOUR BODY.
WHAT'S MORE, ONCE THE PROCEDURE IS COMPLETE...
...WE'RE REQUIRED...
...TO SUBMIT A DEATH CERTIFICATE FOR THE BABY.
...

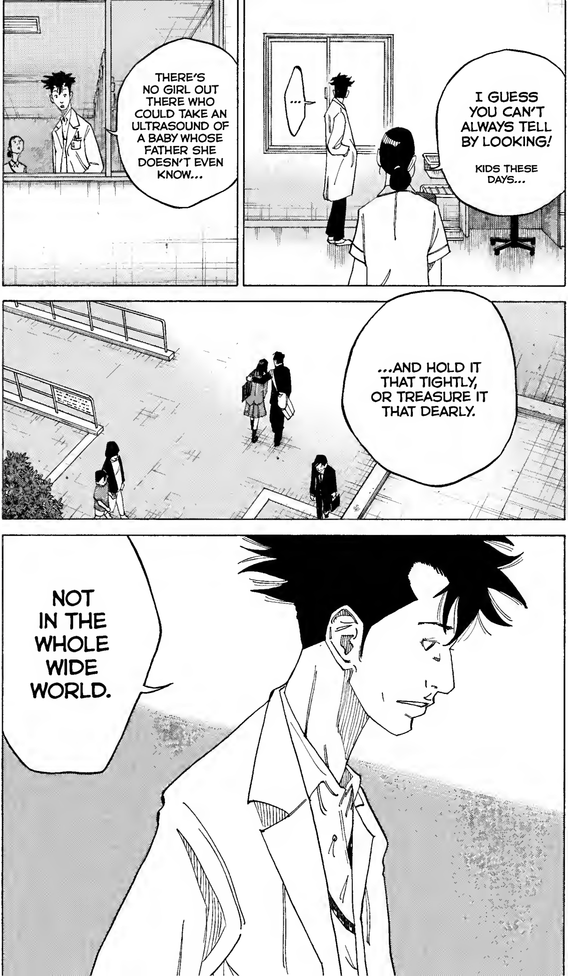

ONCE THE GOVERNMENT ACCEPTS THE DEATH CERTIFICATE...
...THEY SEND BACK A CREMATION PERMIT.
THE MOTHER MUST THEN CREMATE THE BABY AT THE DESIGNATED DAY AND TIME.
FIRST-TRIMESTER ABORTIONS ARE SURGICAL PROCEDURES.
...
BUT SECOND-TRIMESTER ABORTIONS ARE NOT.


THEY'RE DELIVERIES.
WHEN A MOTHER IS TOO YOUNG TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR HER CHILD...
...WE CAN'T PERFORM A RISKY SECOND-TRIMESTER PROCEDURE WITHOUT INFORMING HER PARENTS...
...NO MATTER WHAT.
...

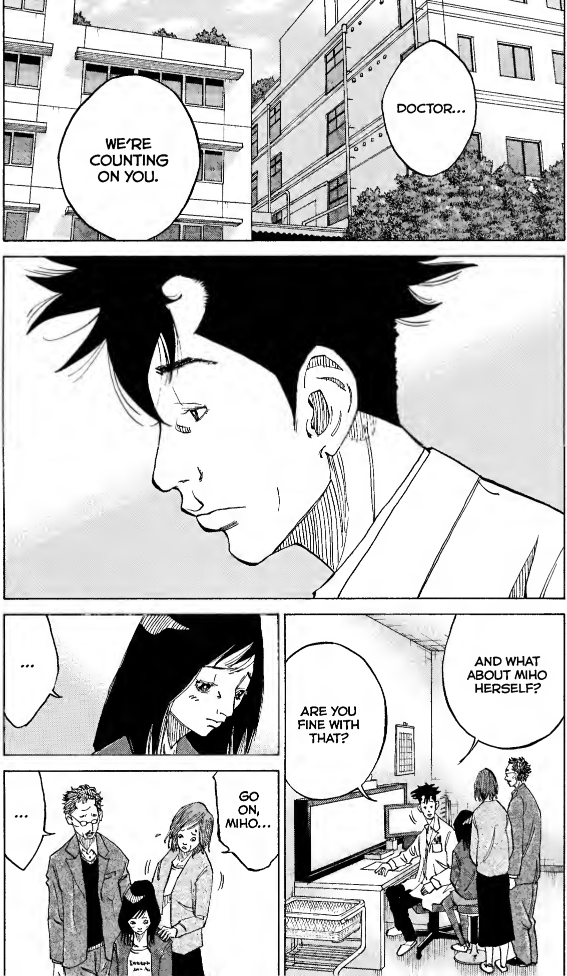

...THANK YOU, DOCTOR.
HERE, NOMURA-SAN. TAKE THIS.
IT'S YOUR BABY'S ULTRASOUND PHOTO.
HUH...?
NOMURA-SAN.
THIS IS AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT DECISION.
...
GO TALK TO YOUR PARENTS...
...AND HAVE THEM BRING YOU IN FOR EXAMINATION AS SOON AS YOU CAN.
...
WE'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU.

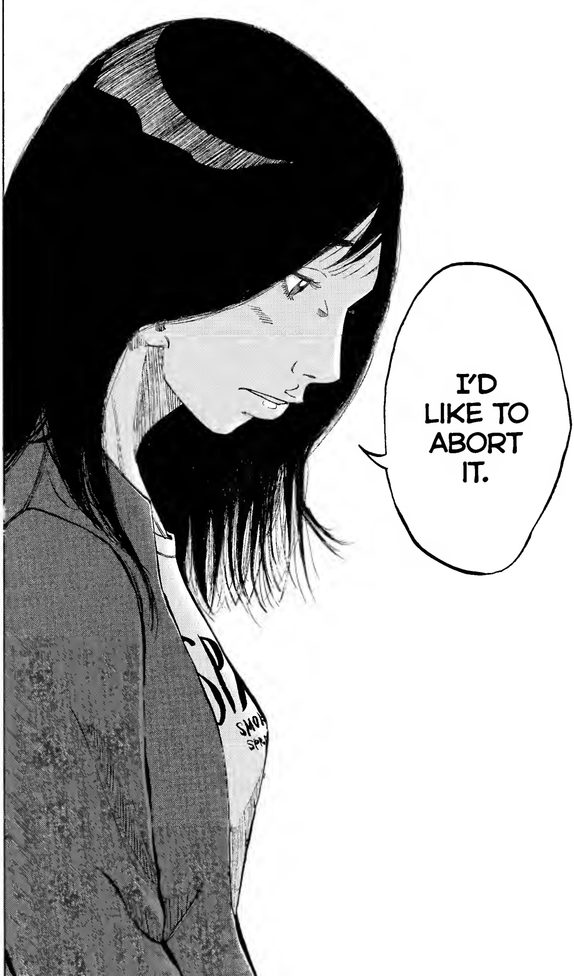

きゅ…
SQUEEZE
…
聖ベルシナ総合医療センター
MIHO! DID EVERYTHING GO OKAY?

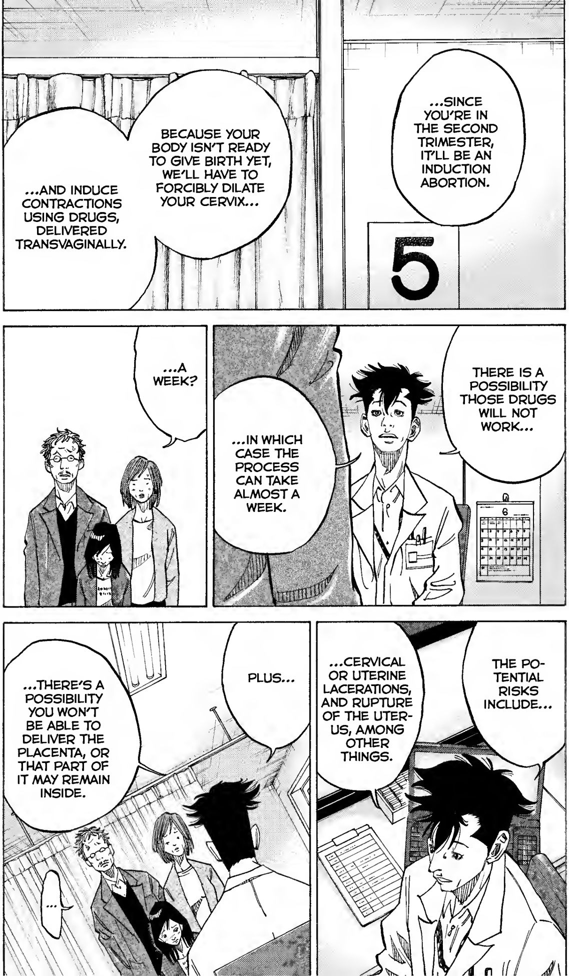

I'M... PREGNANT AFTER ALL.
13 WEEKS, HE SAID.
...
MIHO ...
I'M SORRY.
...
SHE DOESN'T REMEMBER WHO THE FATHER IS?
SHE DIDN'T SEEM LIKE THAT KIND OF GIRL...

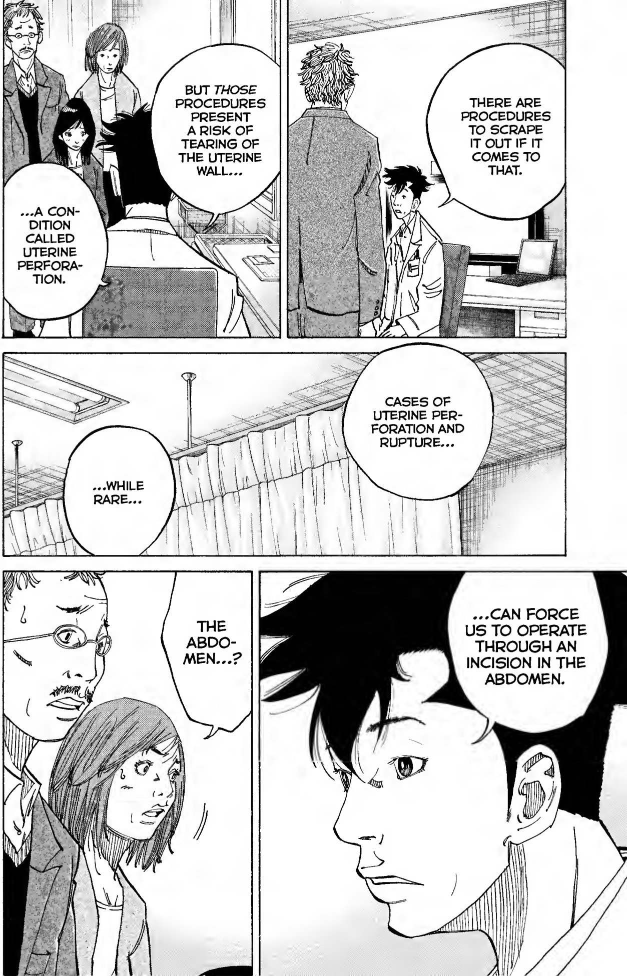

I GUESS YOU CAN'T ALWAYS TELL BY LOOKING!
KIDS THESE DAYS...
...
THERE'S NO GIRL OUT THERE WHO COULD TAKE AN ULTRASOUND OF A BABY WHOSE FATHER SHE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW...
...AND HOLD IT THAT TIGHTLY, OR TREASURE IT THAT DEARLY.
NOT IN THE WHOLE WIDE WORLD.

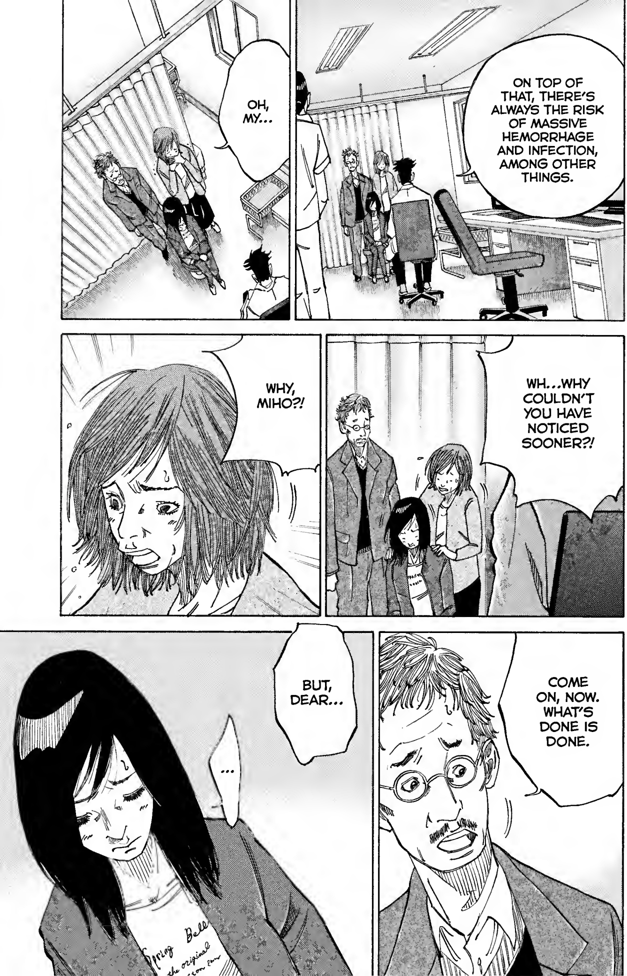
TEENAGE PREGNANCY (1) / END

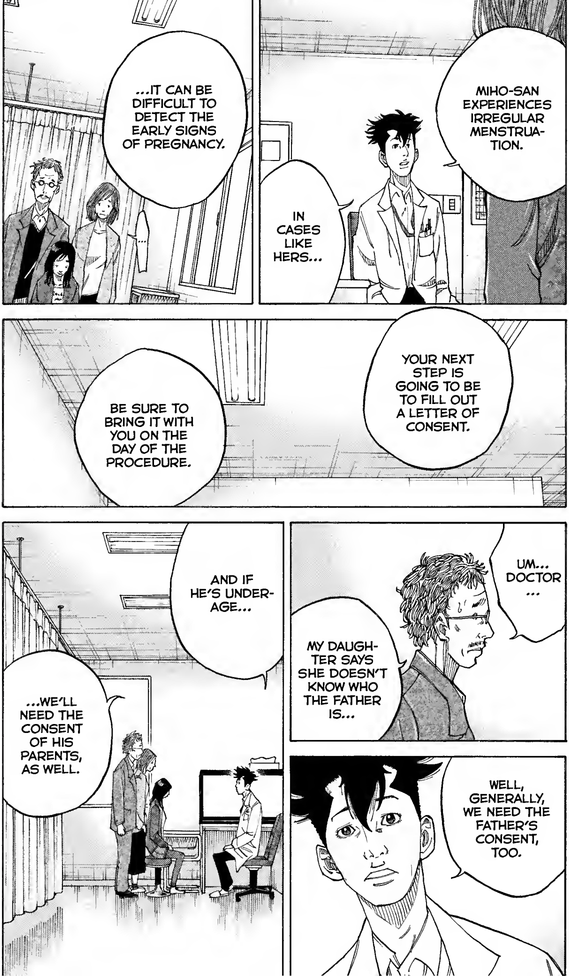

DOCTOR...
WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU.
AND WHAT ABOUT MIHO HERSELF?
ARE YOU FINE WITH THAT?
...
GO ON, MIHO...
...

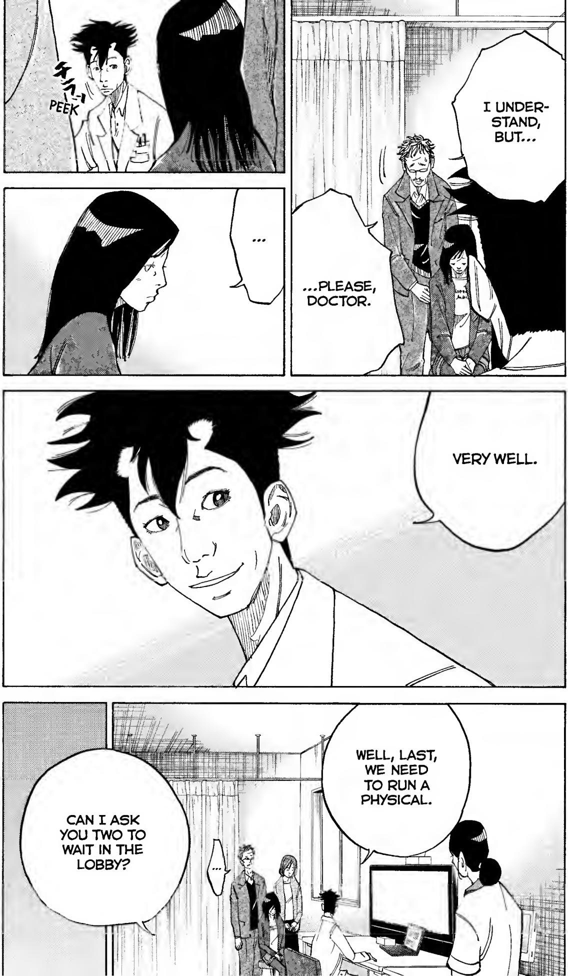

I'D LIKE TO ABORT IT.

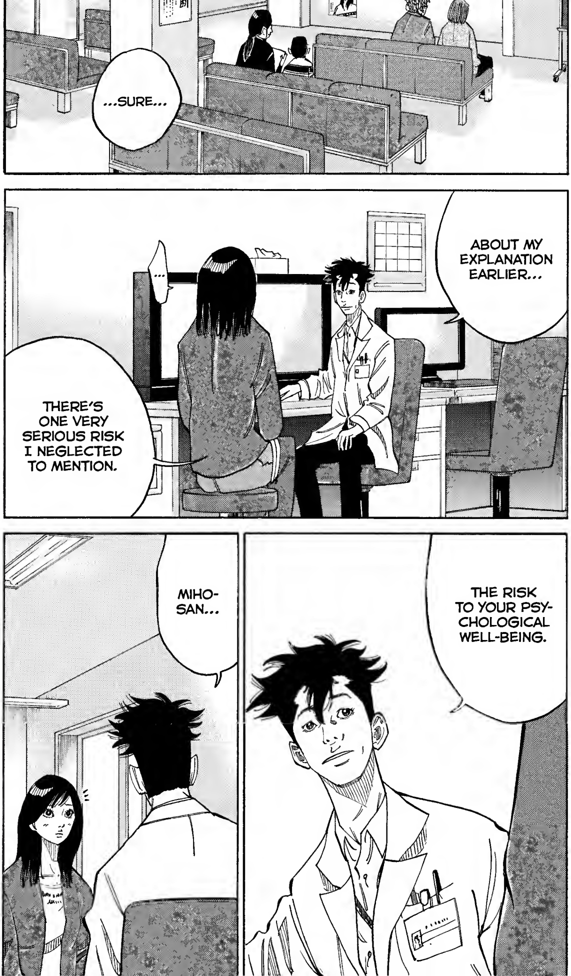

...SINCE YOU'RE IN THE SECOND TRIMESTER, IT'LL BE AN INDUCTION ABORTION.
5
BECAUSE YOUR BODY ISN'T READY TO GIVE BIRTH YET, WE'LL HAVE TO FORCIBLY DILATE YOUR CERVIX...
...AND INDUCE CONTRACTIONS USING DRUGS, DELIVERED TRANSVAGINALLY.
THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THOSE DRUGS WILL NOT WORK...
...IN WHICH CASE THE PROCESS CAN TAKE ALMOST A WEEK.
6
...A WEEK?
THE POTENTIAL RISKS INCLUDE...
...CERVICAL OR UTERINE LACERATIONS, AND RUPTURE OF THE UTERUS, AMONG OTHER THINGS.
PLUS...
...THERE'S A POSSIBILITY YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO DELIVER THE PLACENTA, OR THAT PART OF IT MAY REMAIN INSIDE.
...

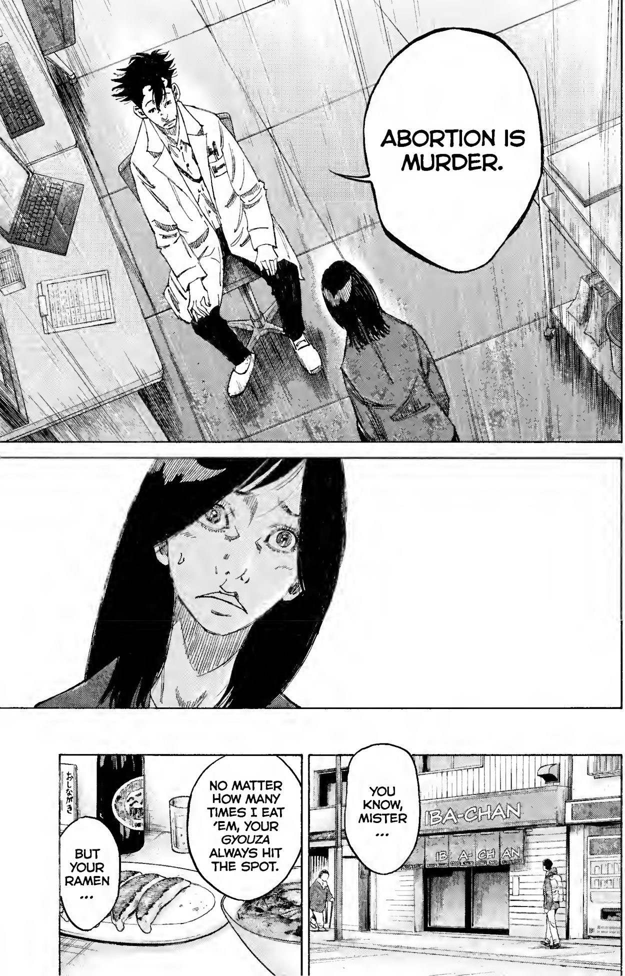

THERE ARE PROCEDURES TO SCRAPE IT OUT IF IT COMES TO THAT.
BUT *THOSE* PROCEDURES PRESENT A RISK OF TEARING OF THE UTERINE WALL...
...A CONDITION CALLED UTERINE PERFORATION.
CASES OF UTERINE PERFORATION AND RUPTURE...
...WHILE RARE...
...CAN FORCE US TO OPERATE THROUGH AN INCISION IN THE ABDOMEN.
THE ABDOMEN...?

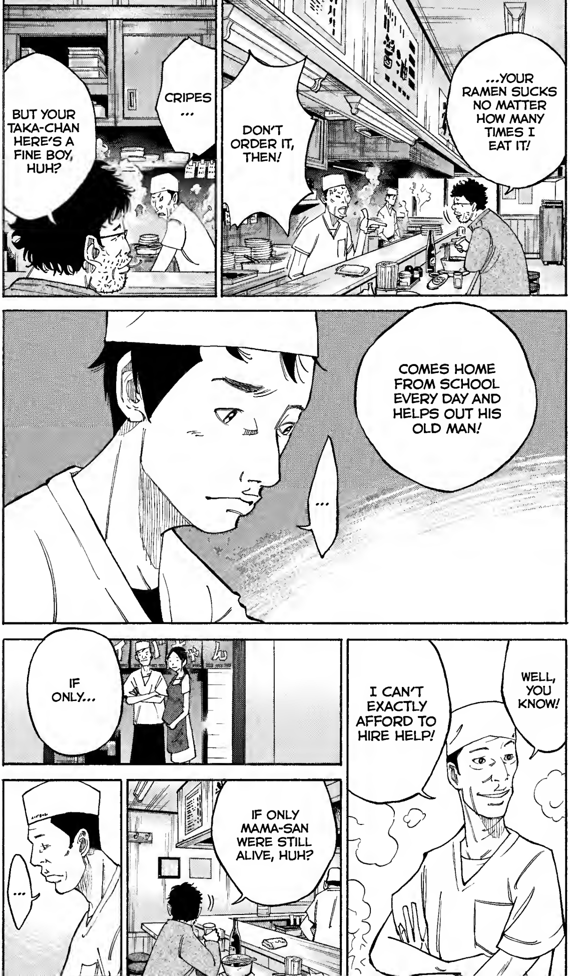

ON TOP OF THAT, THERE'S ALWAYS THE RISK OF MASSIVE HEMORRHAGE AND INFECTION, AMONG OTHER THINGS.
OH, MY...
WH...WHY COULDN'T YOU HAVE NOTICED SOONER?!
WHY, MIHO?!
COME ON, NOW. WHAT'S DONE IS DONE.
BUT, DEAR...
...
Spring Bell
the original

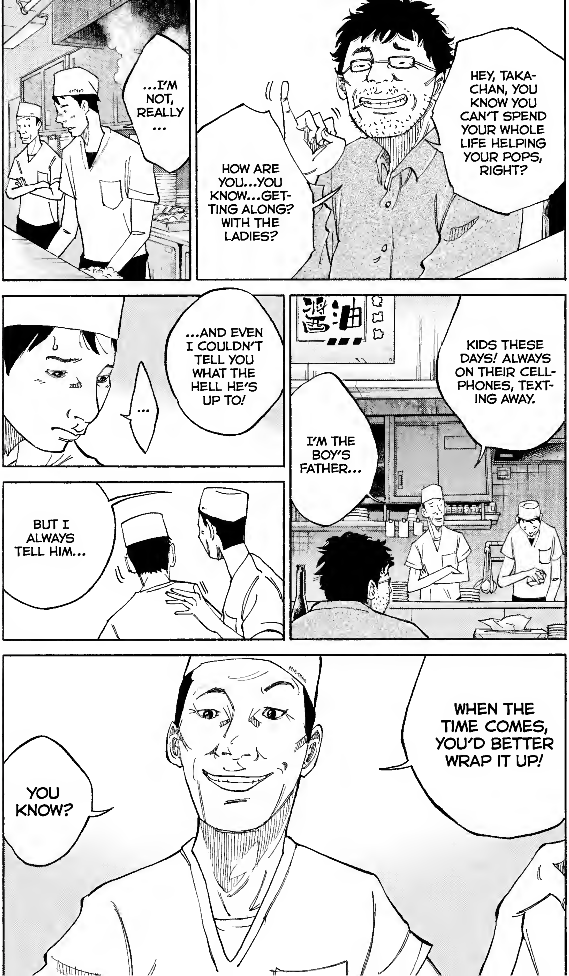

MIHO-SAN EXPERIENCES IRREGULAR MENSTRUATION.
IN CASES LIKE HERS...
...IT CAN BE DIFFICULT TO DETECT THE EARLY SIGNS OF PREGNANCY.
...
YOUR NEXT STEP IS GOING TO BE TO FILL OUT A LETTER OF CONSENT.
BE SURE TO BRING IT WITH YOU ON THE DAY OF THE PROCEDURE.
UM... DOCTOR...
MY DAUGHTER SAYS SHE DOESN'T KNOW WHO THE FATHER IS...
WELL, GENERALLY, WE NEED THE FATHER'S CONSENT, TOO.
AND IF HE'S UNDERAGE...
...WE'LL NEED THE CONSENT OF HIS PARENTS, AS WELL.

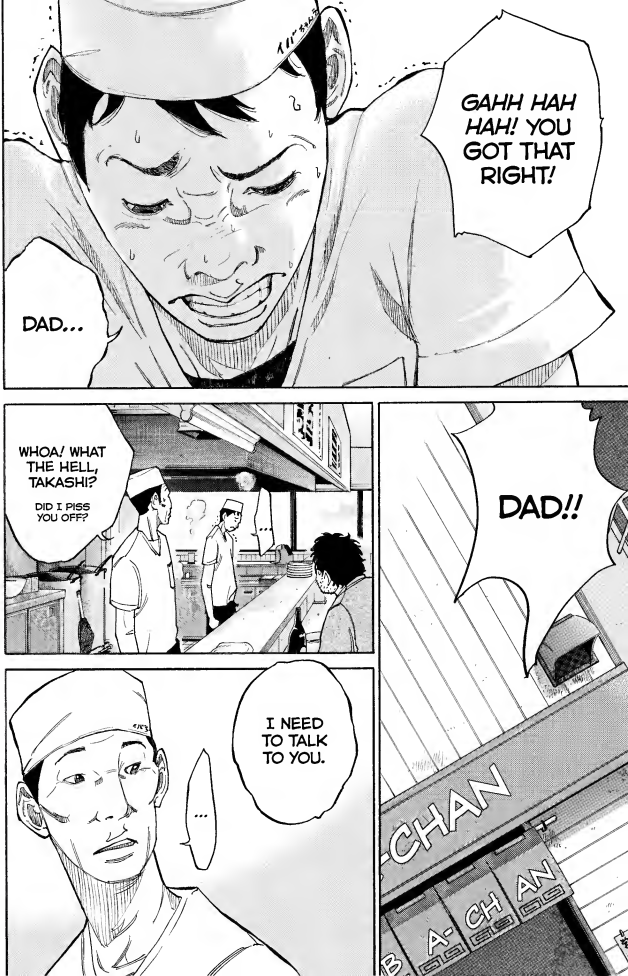

I UNDERSTAND, BUT...
...PLEASE, DOCTOR.
チラ
PEEK
...
VERY WELL.
WELL, LAST, WE NEED TO RUN A PHYSICAL.
CAN I ASK YOU TWO TO WAIT IN THE LOBBY?
...

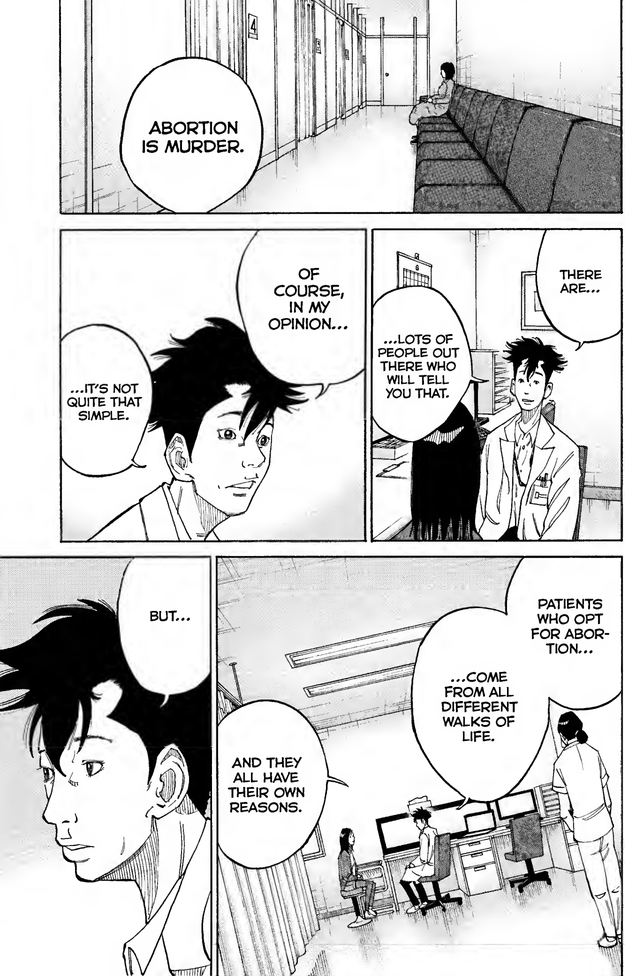

...SURE...
ABOUT MY EXPLANATION EARLIER...
...
THERE'S ONE VERY SERIOUS RISK I NEGLECTED TO MENTION.
THE RISK TO YOUR PSYCHOLOGICAL WELL-BEING.
MIHO-SAN...

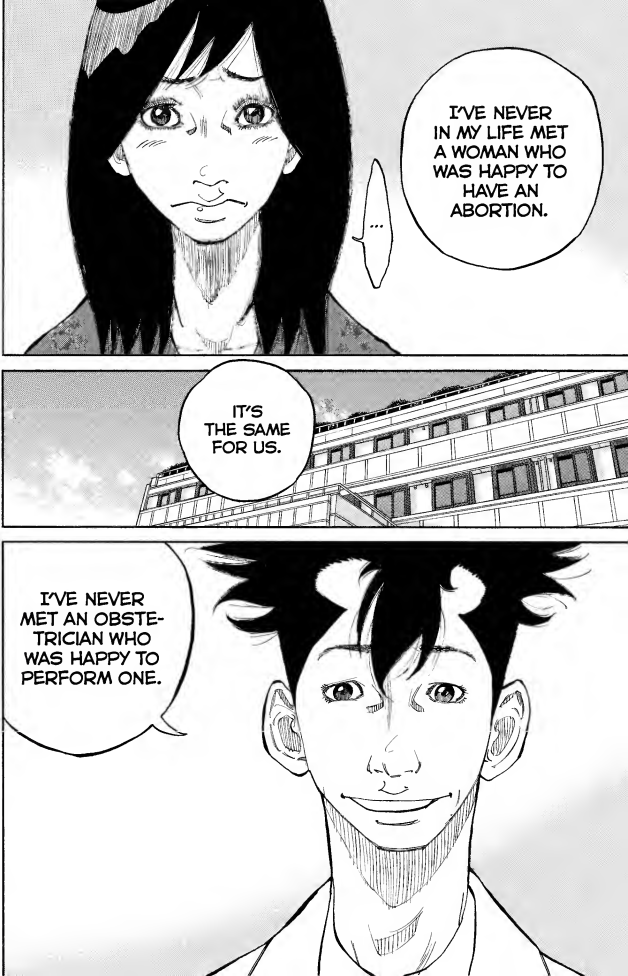

ABORTION IS MURDER.
YOU KNOW, MISTER ...
IBA-CHAN
IB A- CH AN
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I EAT 'EM, YOUR *GYOUZA* ALWAYS HIT THE SPOT.
おしながき
BUT YOUR RAMEN ...

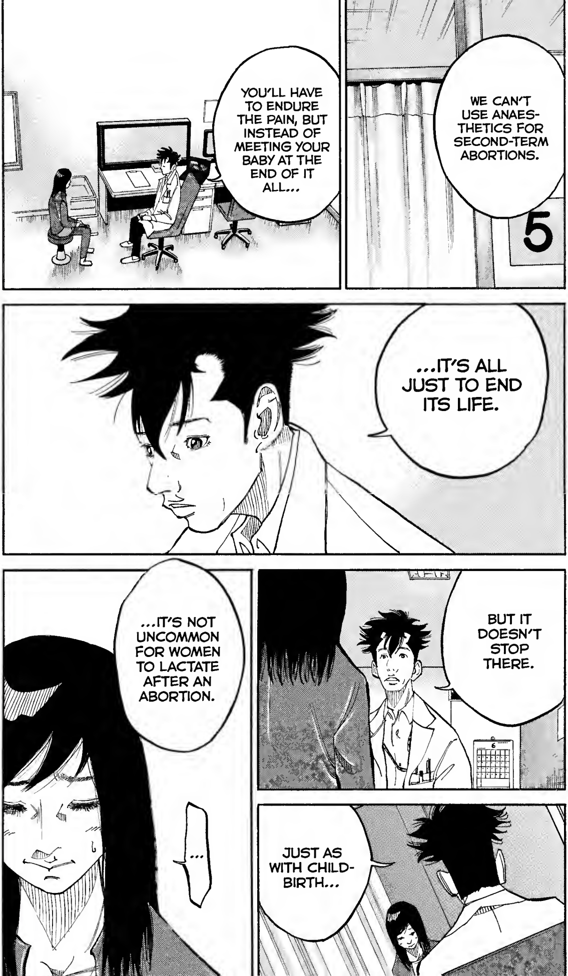

...YOUR RAMEN SUCKS NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I EAT IT!
DON'T ORDER IT, THEN!
CRIPES...
BUT YOUR TAKA-CHAN HERE'S A FINE BOY, HUH?
COMES HOME FROM SCHOOL EVERY DAY AND HELPS OUT HIS OLD MAN!
...
WELL, YOU KNOW!
I CAN'T EXACTLY AFFORD TO HIRE HELP!
IF ONLY...
IF ONLY MAMA-SAN WERE STILL ALIVE, HUH?
...

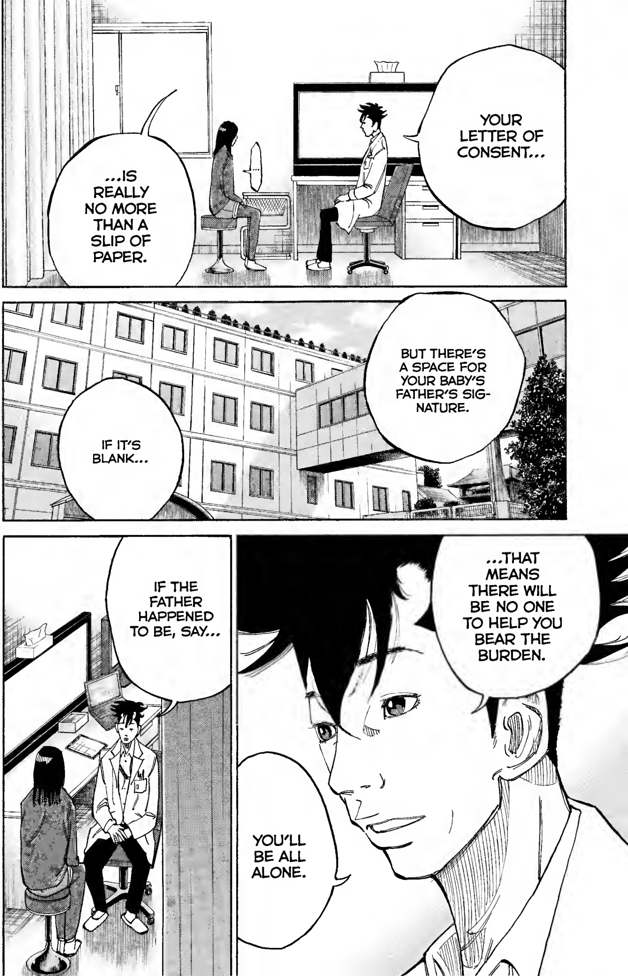

HEY, TAKA-CHAN, YOU KNOW YOU CAN'T SPEND YOUR WHOLE LIFE HELPING YOUR POPS, RIGHT?
HOW ARE YOU...YOU KNOW...GETTING ALONG? WITH THE LADIES?
...I'M NOT, REALLY...
醤油
KIDS THESE DAYS! ALWAYS ON THEIR CELLPHONES, TEXTING AWAY.
I'M THE BOY'S FATHER...
...AND EVEN I COULDN'T TELL YOU WHAT THE HELL HE'S UP TO!
...
BUT I ALWAYS TELL HIM...
WHEN THE TIME COMES, YOU'D BETTER WRAP IT UP!
YOU KNOW?

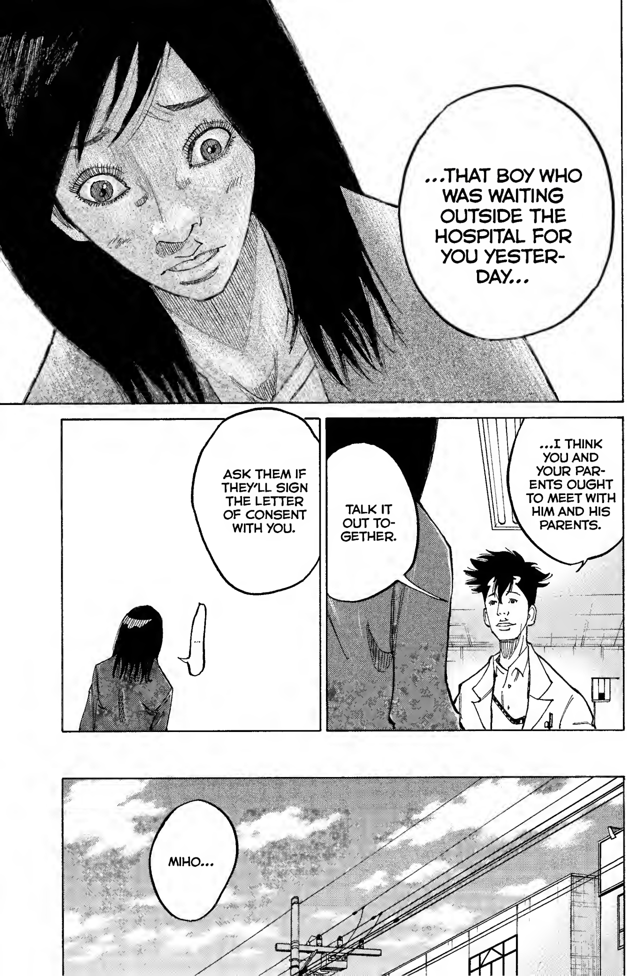

GAHH HAH HAH! YOU GOT THAT RIGHT!
DAD...
DAD!!
-CHAN
B A- CH AN
WHOA! WHAT THE HELL, TAKASHI?
DID I PISS YOU OFF?
...
I NEED TO TALK TO YOU.
...

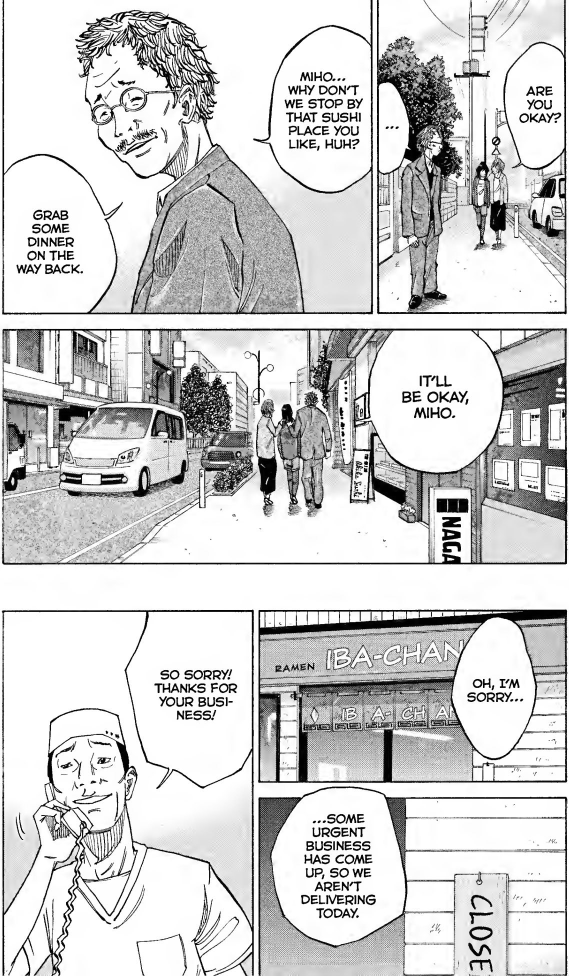

ABORTION IS MURDER.
THERE ARE...
...LOTS OF PEOPLE OUT THERE WHO WILL TELL YOU THAT.
OF COURSE, IN MY OPINION...
...IT'S NOT QUITE THAT SIMPLE.
PATIENTS WHO OPT FOR ABORTION...
...COME FROM ALL DIFFERENT WALKS OF LIFE.
AND THEY ALL HAVE THEIR OWN REASONS.
BUT...

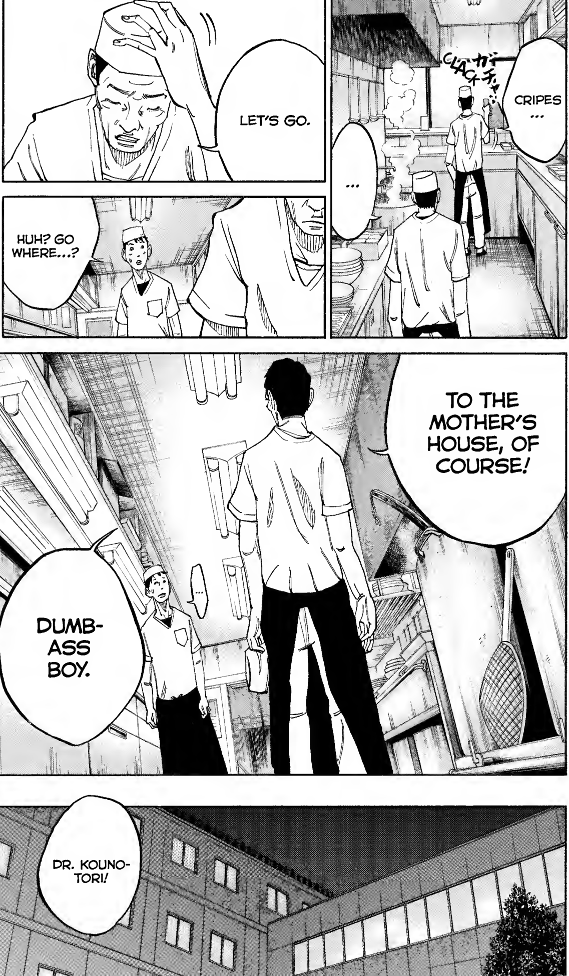

I'VE NEVER IN MY LIFE MET A WOMAN WHO WAS HAPPY TO HAVE AN ABORTION.
...
IT'S THE SAME FOR US.
I'VE NEVER MET AN OBSTETRICIAN WHO WAS HAPPY TO PERFORM ONE.

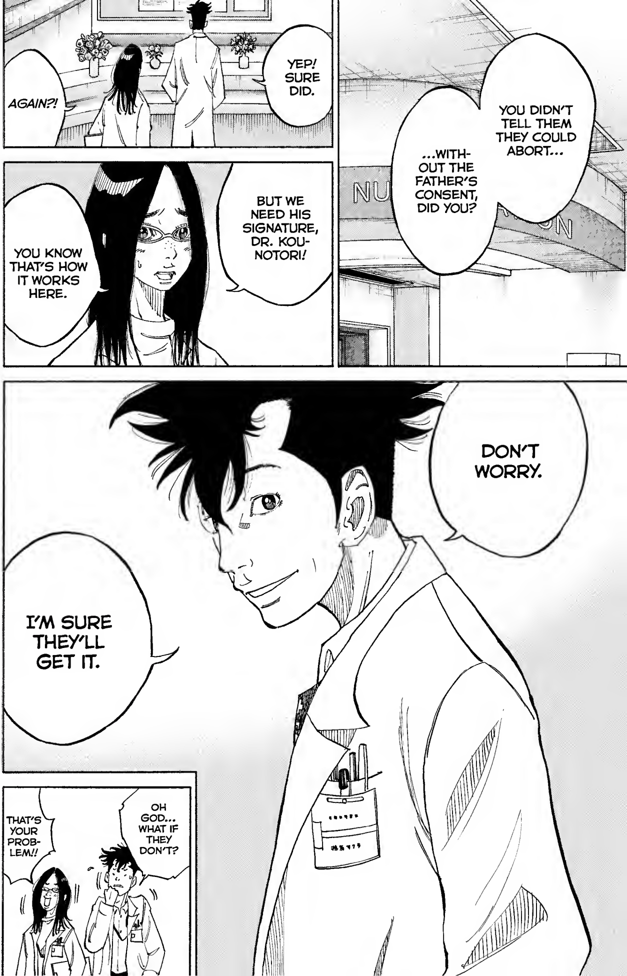

WE CAN'T USE ANAESTHETICS FOR SECOND-TERM ABORTIONS.
5
YOU'LL HAVE TO ENDURE THE PAIN, BUT INSTEAD OF MEETING YOUR BABY AT THE END OF IT ALL...
...IT'S ALL JUST TO END ITS LIFE.
BUT IT DOESN'T STOP THERE.
JUST AS WITH CHILDBIRTH...
...IT'S NOT UNCOMMON FOR WOMEN TO LACTATE AFTER AN ABORTION.
...


YOUR LETTER OF CONSENT...
...
...IS REALLY NO MORE THAN A SLIP OF PAPER.
BUT THERE'S A SPACE FOR YOUR BABY'S FATHER'S SIGNATURE.
IF IT'S BLANK...
...THAT MEANS THERE WILL BE NO ONE TO HELP YOU BEAR THE BURDEN.
YOU'LL BE ALL ALONE.
IF THE FATHER HAPPENED TO BE, SAY...

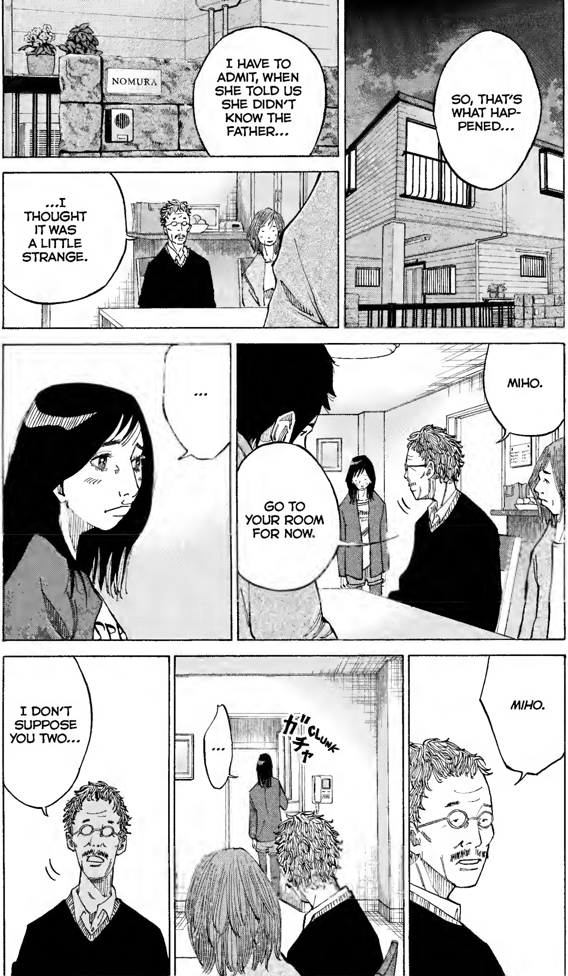

...THAT BOY WHO WAS WAITING OUTSIDE THE HOSPITAL FOR YOU YESTERDAY...
...I THINK YOU AND YOUR PARENTS OUGHT TO MEET WITH HIM AND HIS PARENTS.
TALK IT OUT TOGETHER.
ASK THEM IF THEY'LL SIGN THE LETTER OF CONSENT WITH YOU.
...
MIHO...

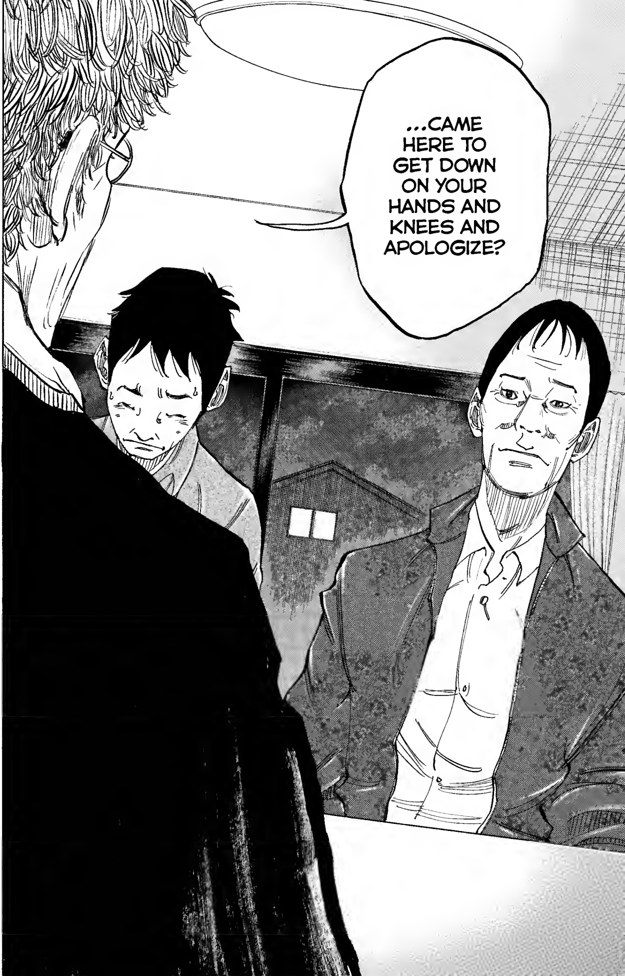

ARE YOU OKAY?
...
MIHO... WHY DON'T WE STOP BY THAT SUSHI PLACE YOU LIKE, HUH?
GRAB SOME DINNER ON THE WAY BACK.
IT'LL BE OKAY, MIHO.
NAGA
RAMEN IBA-CHAN
IB A- CH A
OH, I'M SORRY...
...SOME URGENT BUSINESS HAS COME UP, SO WE AREN'T DELIVERING TODAY.
CLOSE
SO SORRY! THANKS FOR YOUR BUSINESS!

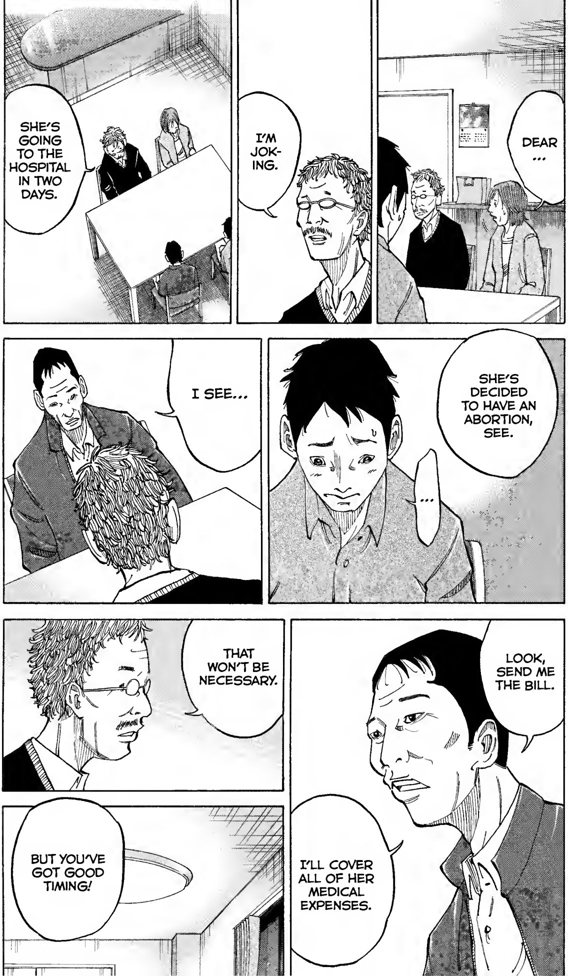

CLACK
ガチャ
CRIPES…
…
LET'S GO.
HUH? GO WHERE…?
TO THE MOTHER'S HOUSE, OF COURSE!
…
DUMB-ASS BOY.
DR. KOUNOTORI!

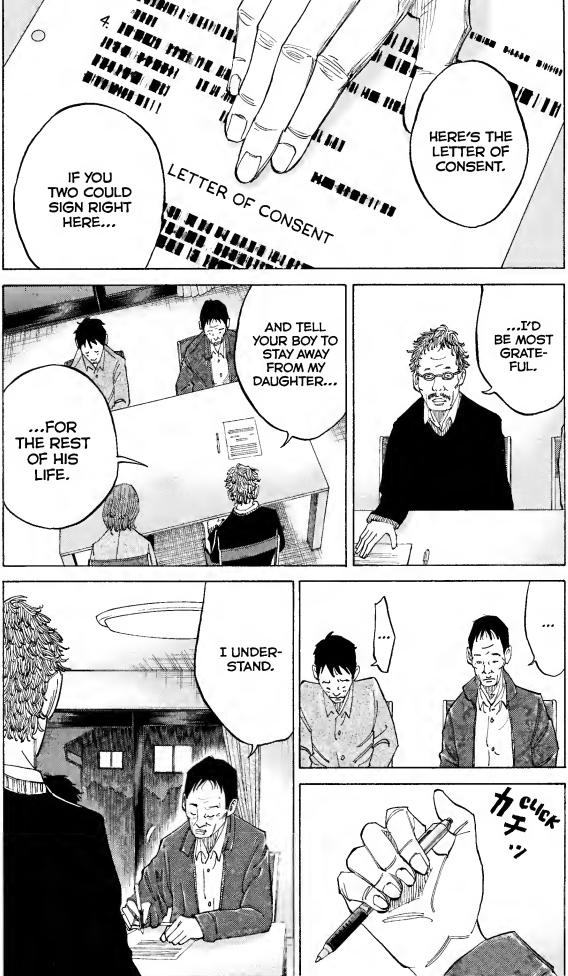

YOU DIDN'T TELL THEM THEY COULD ABORT...
...WITHOUT THE FATHER'S CONSENT, DID YOU?
YEP! SURE DID.
AGAIN?!
BUT WE NEED HIS SIGNATURE, DR. KOUNOTORI!
YOU KNOW THAT'S HOW IT WORKS HERE.
DON'T WORRY.
I'M SURE THEY'LL GET IT.
OH GOD... WHAT IF THEY DON'T?
THAT'S YOUR PROBLEM!!

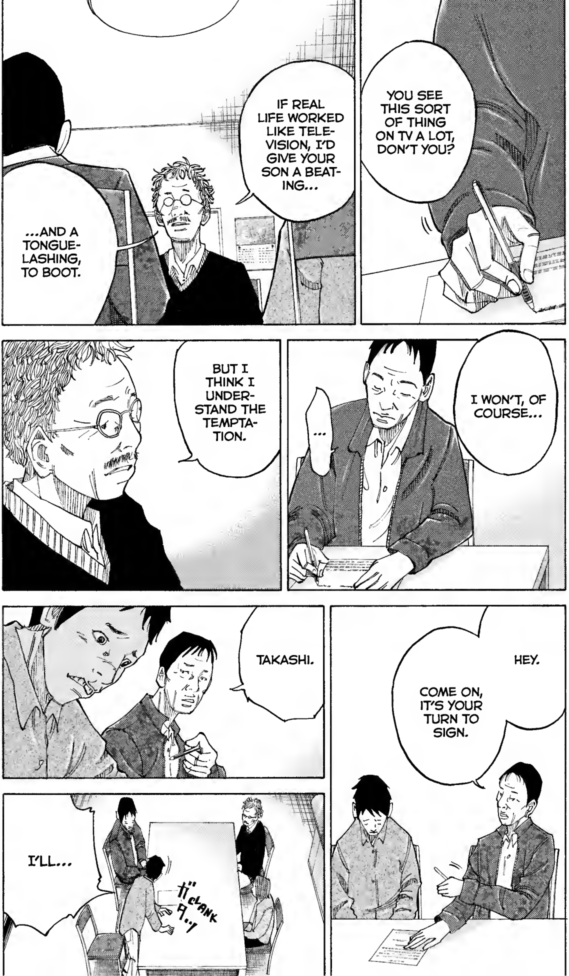
TEENAGE PREGNANCY (2) / END

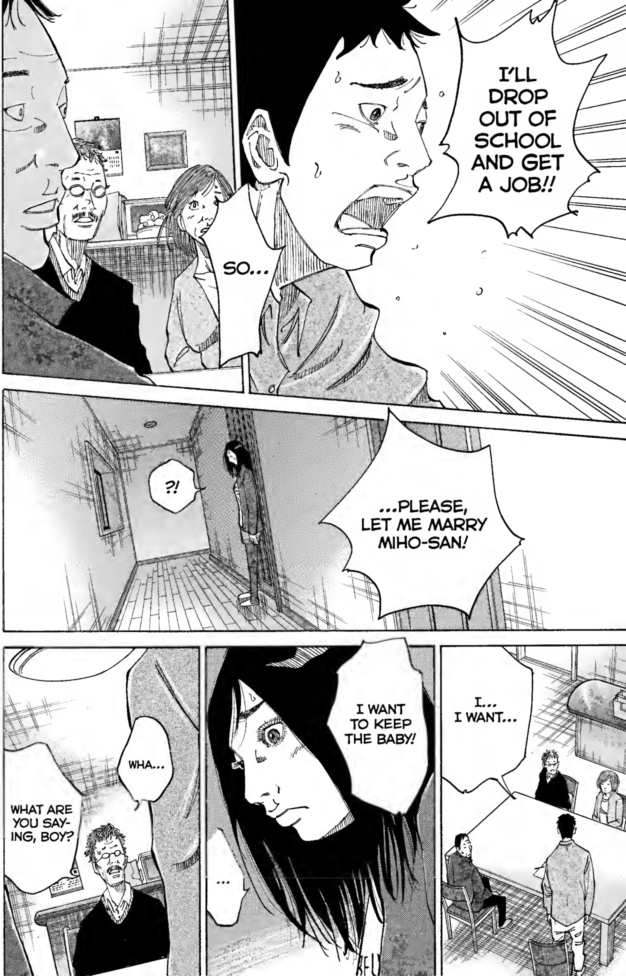

SO, THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED...
NOMURA
I HAVE TO ADMIT, WHEN SHE TOLD US SHE DIDN'T KNOW THE FATHER...
...I THOUGHT IT WAS A LITTLE STRANGE.
MIHO.
GO TO YOUR ROOM FOR NOW.
...
MIHO.
ガチャ CLUNK
...
I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU TWO...

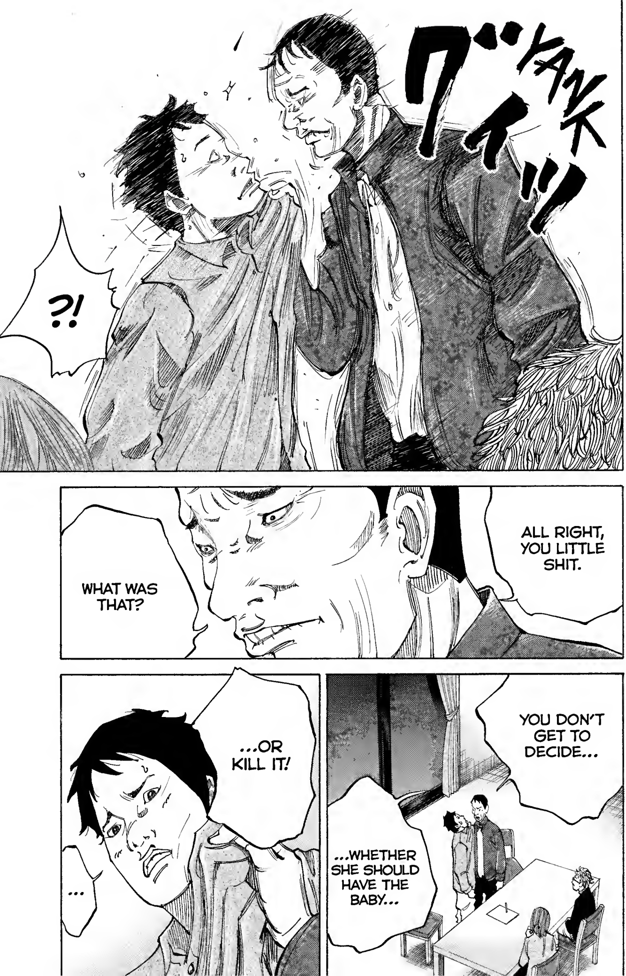

...CAME HERE TO GET DOWN ON YOUR HANDS AND KNEES AND APOLOGIZE?

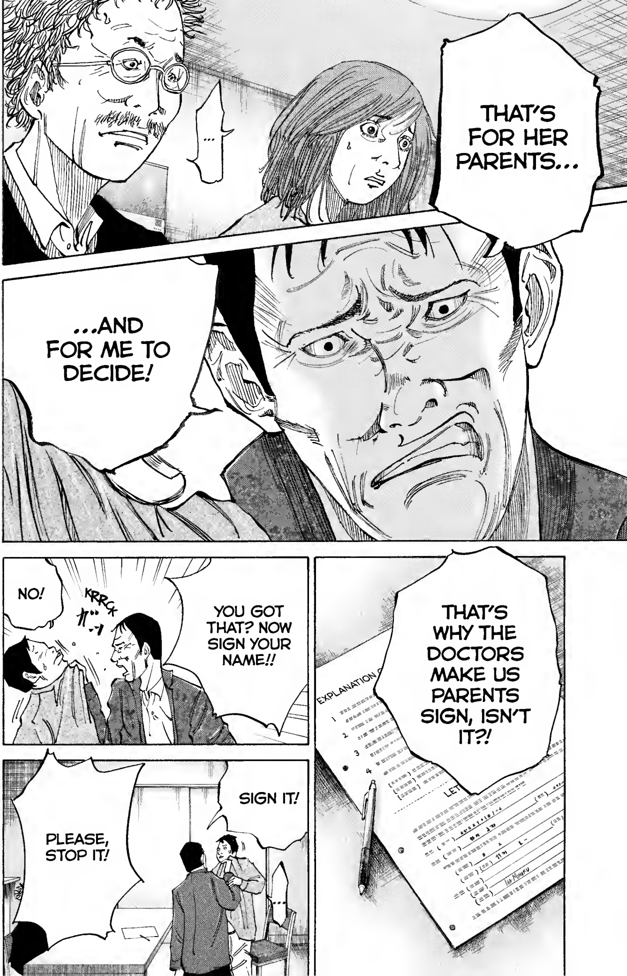

DEAR ...
I'M JOKING.
SHE'S GOING TO THE HOSPITAL IN TWO DAYS.
SHE'S DECIDED TO HAVE AN ABORTION, SEE.
...
I SEE...
LOOK, SEND ME THE BILL.
I'LL COVER ALL OF HER MEDICAL EXPENSES.
THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY.
BUT YOU'VE GOT GOOD TIMING!

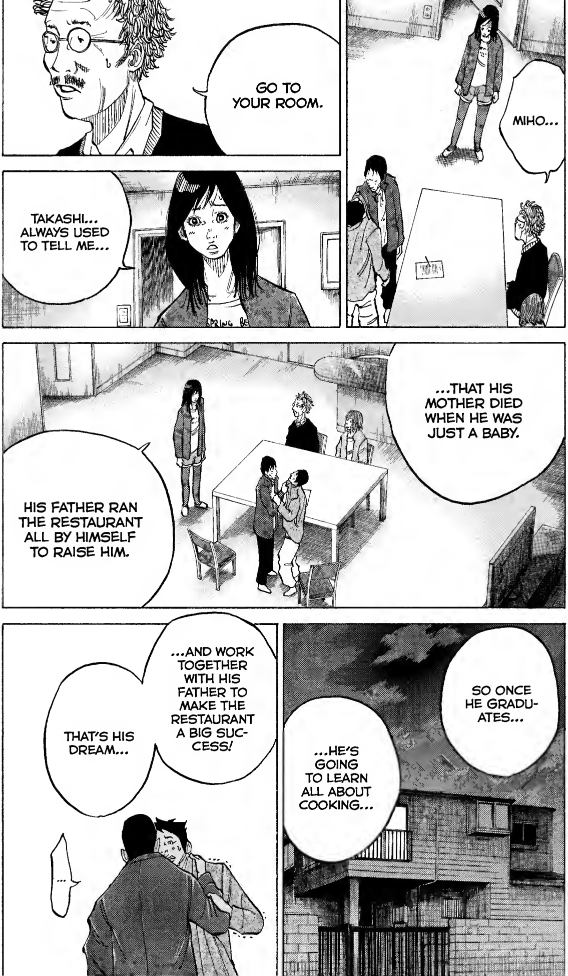

HERE'S THE LETTER OF CONSENT.
IF YOU TWO COULD SIGN RIGHT HERE...
4.
LETTER OF CONSENT
AND TELL YOUR BOY TO STAY AWAY FROM MY DAUGHTER...
...FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE.
...I'D BE MOST GRATEFUL.
...
...
I UNDERSTAND.
カチッ CLICK

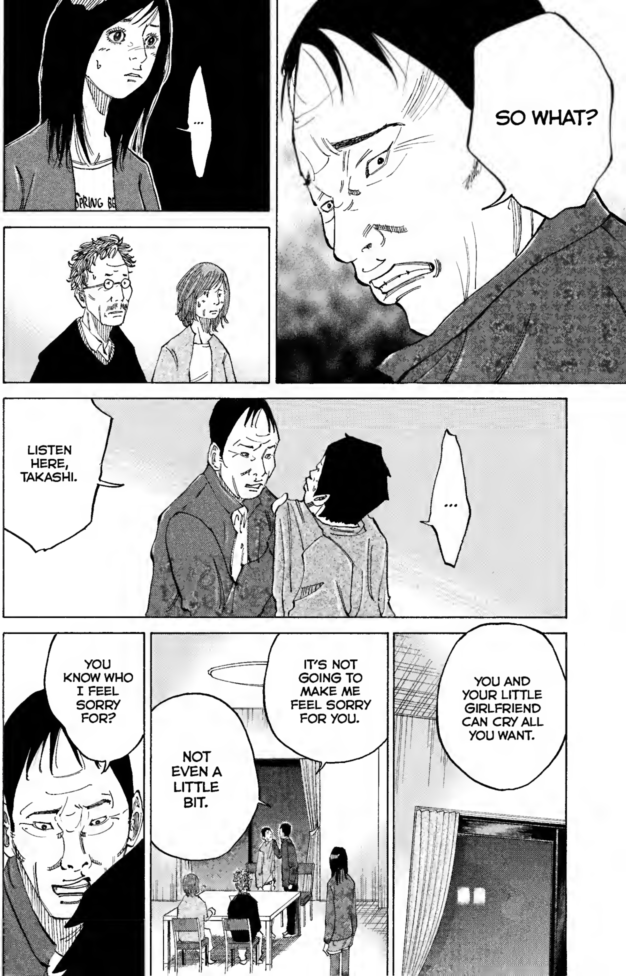

YOU SEE THIS SORT OF THING ON TV A LOT, DON'T YOU?
IF REAL LIFE WORKED LIKE TELEVISION, I'D GIVE YOUR SON A BEATING...
...AND A TONGUE-LASHING, TO BOOT.
I WON'T, OF COURSE...
...
BUT I THINK I UNDERSTAND THE TEMPTATION.
HEY.
COME ON, IT'S YOUR TURN TO SIGN.
TAKASHI.
I'LL...
ガ CLANK タ…

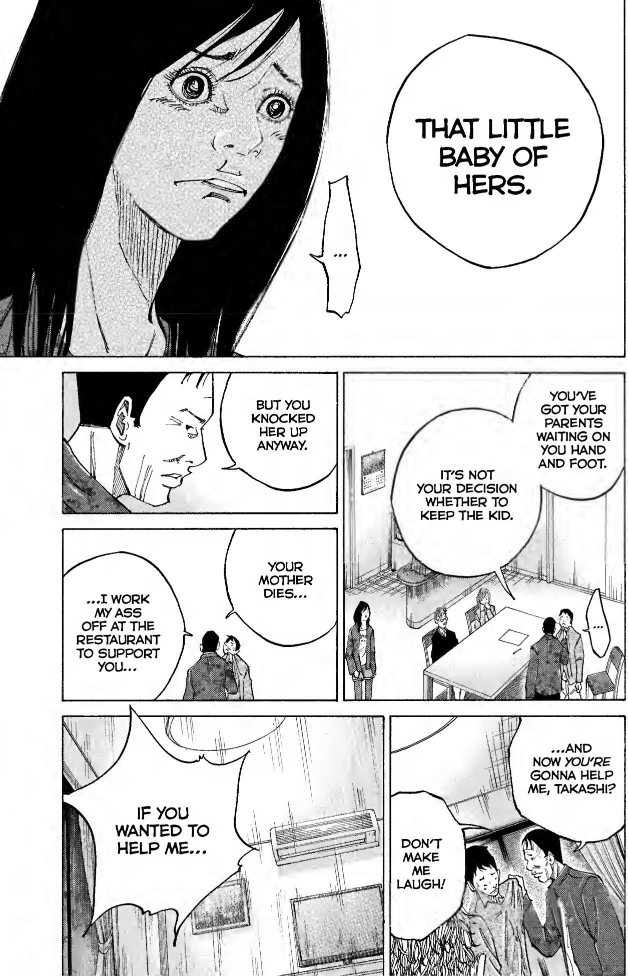

I'LL DROP OUT OF SCHOOL AND GET A JOB!!
SO...
...PLEASE, LET ME MARRY MIHO-SAN!
?!
I... I WANT...
I WANT TO KEEP THE BABY!
...
WHA...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, BOY?

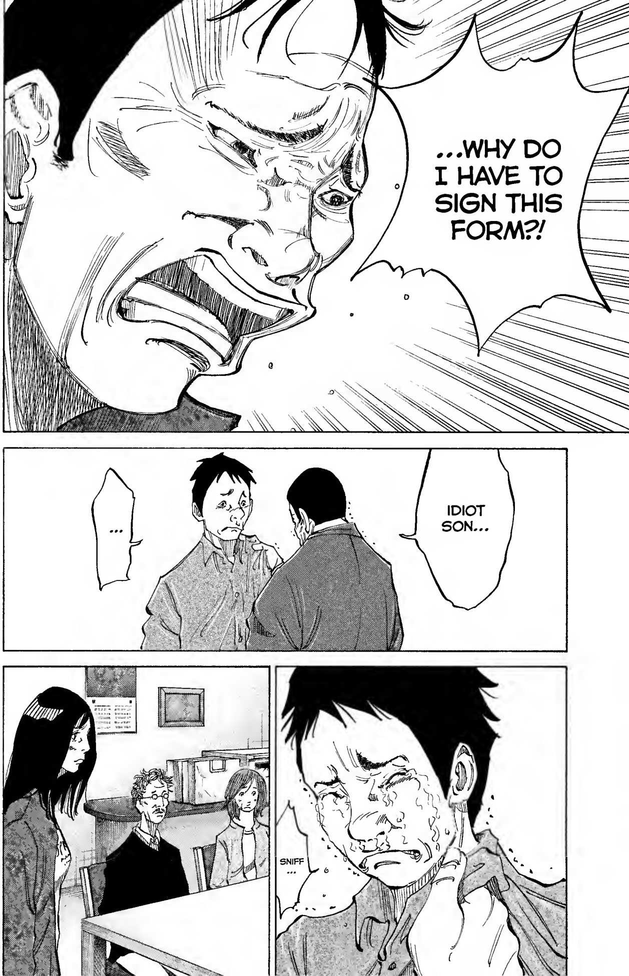

グイッ YANK
?!
ALL RIGHT, YOU LITTLE SHIT.
WHAT WAS THAT?
YOU DON'T GET TO DECIDE...
...WHETHER SHE SHOULD HAVE THE BABY...
...OR KILL IT!
...

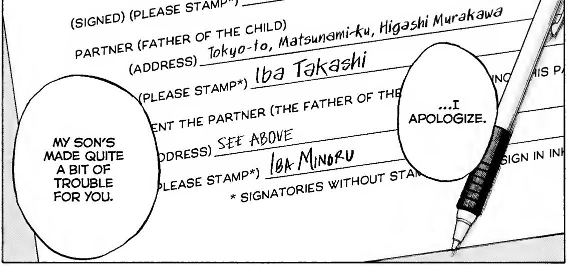

THAT'S FOR HER PARENTS...
...
...AND FOR ME TO DECIDE!
THAT'S WHY THE DOCTORS MAKE US PARENTS SIGN, ISN'T IT?!
EXPLANATION
YOU GOT THAT? NOW SIGN YOUR NAME!!
KRRCK
ガッ
NO!
SIGN IT!
...
PLEASE, STOP IT!


MIHO...
GO TO YOUR ROOM.
TAKASHI... ALWAYS USED TO TELL ME...
SPRING BE
...THAT HIS MOTHER DIED WHEN HE WAS JUST A BABY.
HIS FATHER RAN THE RESTAURANT ALL BY HIMSELF TO RAISE HIM.
SO ONCE HE GRADUATES...
...HE'S GOING TO LEARN ALL ABOUT COOKING...
...AND WORK TOGETHER WITH HIS FATHER TO MAKE THE RESTAURANT A BIG SUCCESS!
THAT'S HIS DREAM...
...


SO WHAT?
...
SPRING BE
...
LISTEN HERE, TAKASHI.
YOU AND YOUR LITTLE GIRLFRIEND CAN CRY ALL YOU WANT.
IT'S NOT GOING TO MAKE ME FEEL SORRY FOR YOU.
NOT EVEN A LITTLE BIT.
YOU KNOW WHO I FEEL SORRY FOR?

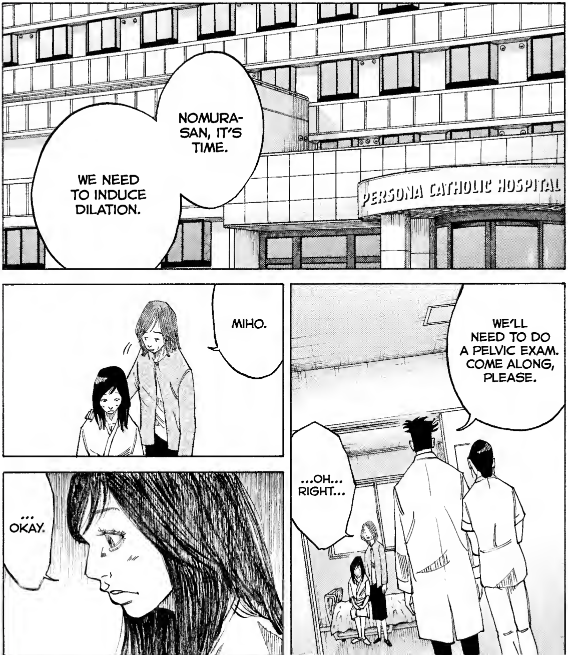

THAT LITTLE BABY OF HERS.
...
YOU'VE GOT YOUR PARENTS WAITING ON YOU HAND AND FOOT.
IT'S NOT YOUR DECISION WHETHER TO KEEP THE KID.
...
BUT YOU KNOCKED HER UP ANYWAY.
YOUR MOTHER DIES...
...I WORK MY ASS OFF AT THE RESTAURANT TO SUPPORT YOU...
...AND NOW *YOU'RE* GONNA HELP ME, TAKASHI?
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!
IF YOU WANTED TO HELP ME...

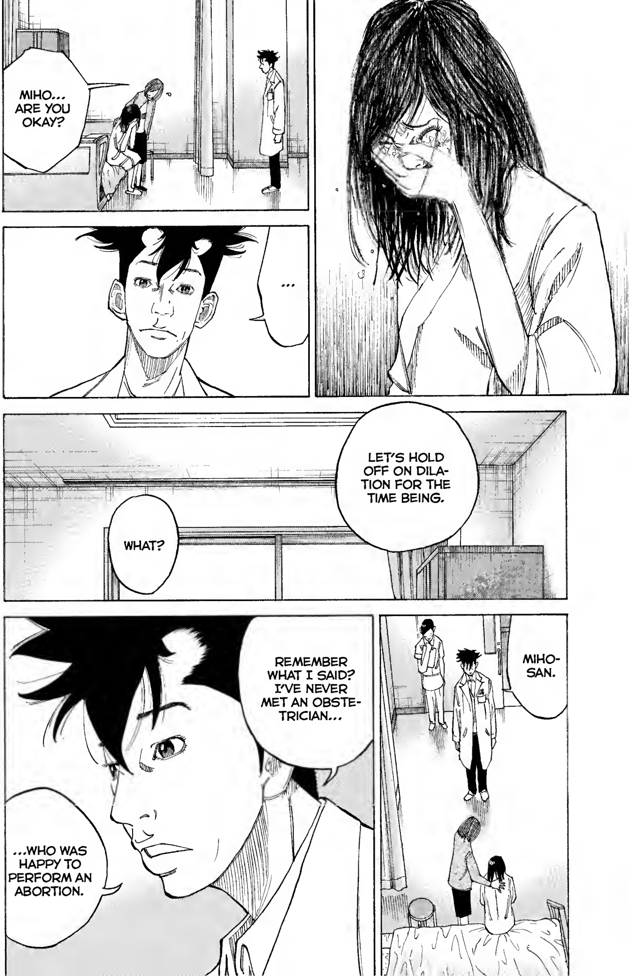

...WHY DO I HAVE TO SIGN THIS FORM?!
IDIOT SON...
...
SNIFF ...

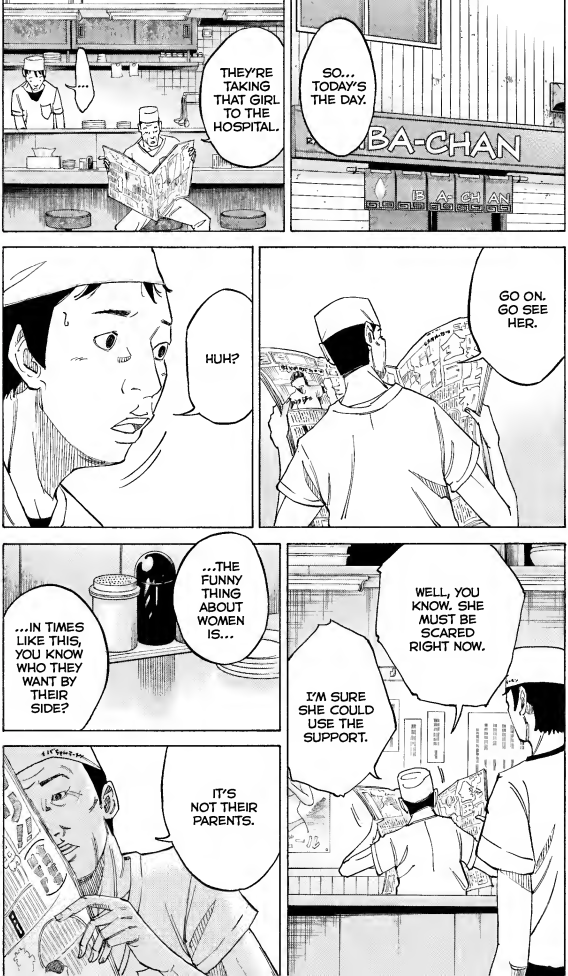


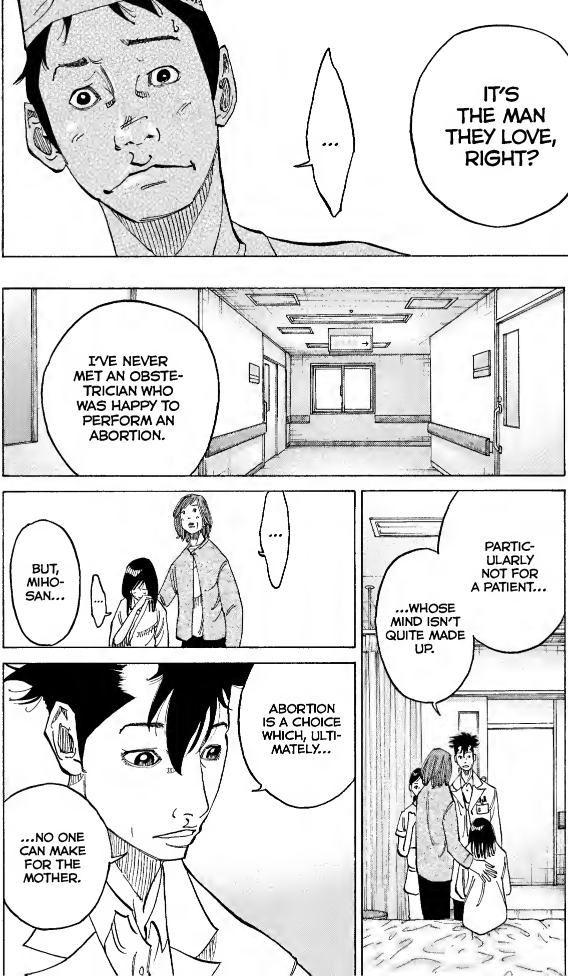
(SIGNED) (PLEASE STAMP*)
PARTNER (FATHER OF THE CHILD)
(ADDRESS) Tokyo-to, Matsunami-ku, Higashi Murakawa
(PLEASE STAMP*) Iba Takashi
NT THE PARTNER (THE FATHER OF THE
DDRESS) SEE ABOVE
LEASE STAMP*) IBA MINORU
* SIGNATORIES WITHOUT STAM
INC HIS P
SIGN IN INK

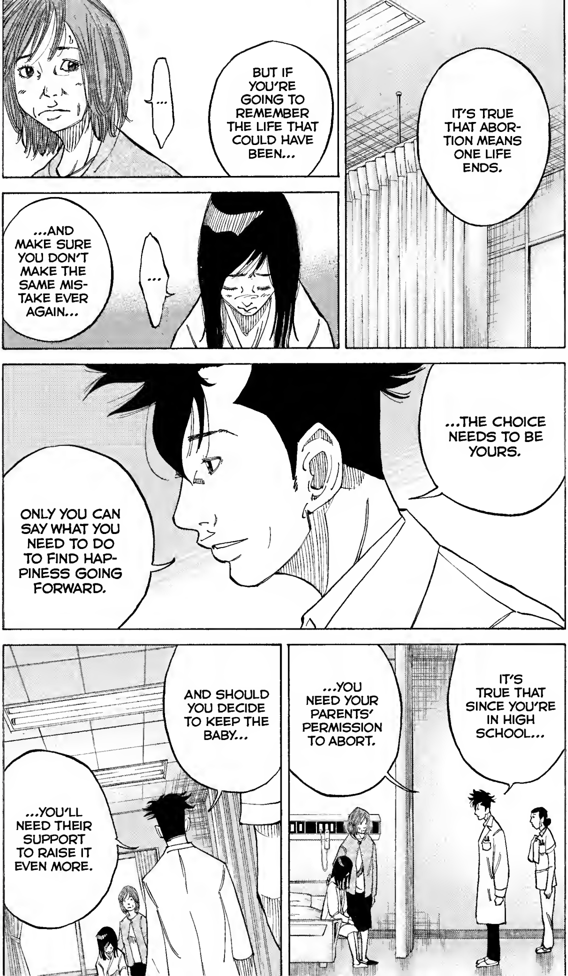
...I APOLOGIZE.
MY SON'S MADE QUITE A BIT OF TROUBLE FOR YOU.

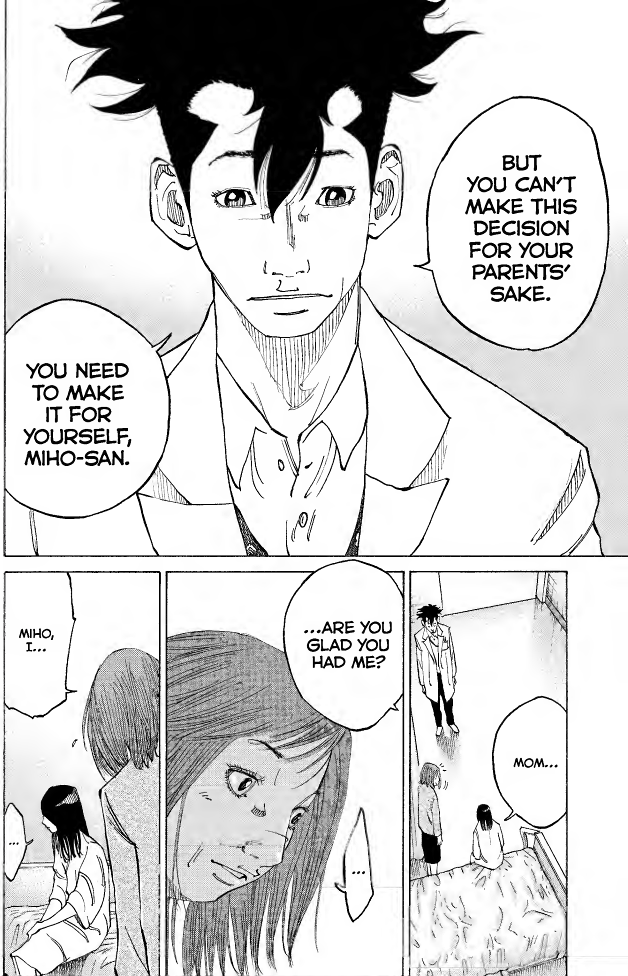

NOMURA-SAN, IT'S TIME.
WE NEED TO INDUCE DILATION.
PERSONA CATHOLIC HOSPITAL
WE'LL NEED TO DO A PELVIC EXAM. COME ALONG, PLEASE.
...OH... RIGHT...
MIHO.
...OKAY.

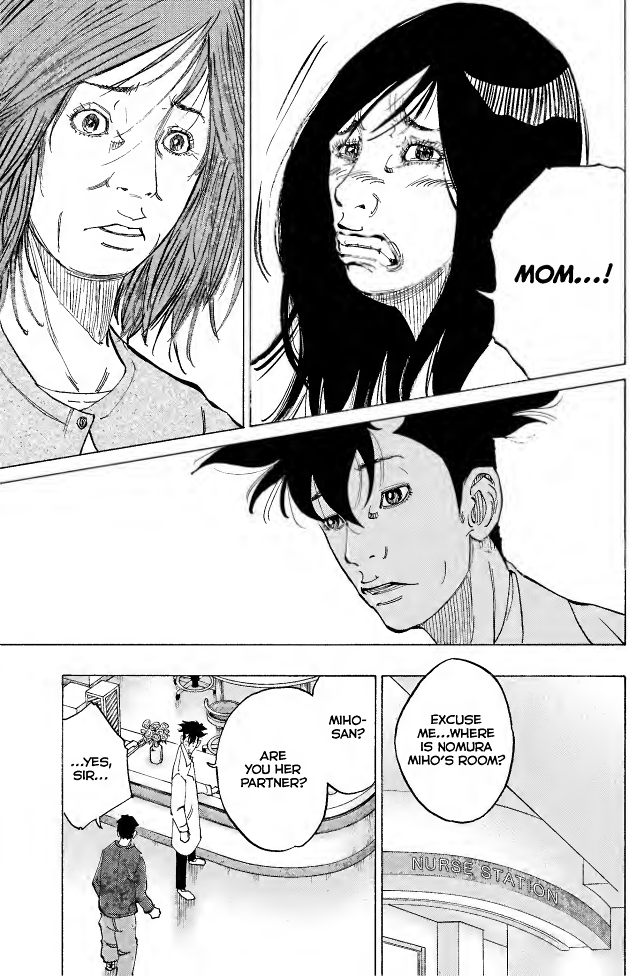

MIHO... ARE YOU OKAY?
...
LET'S HOLD OFF ON DILATION FOR THE TIME BEING.
WHAT?
MIHO-SAN.
REMEMBER WHAT I SAID? I'VE NEVER MET AN OBSTETRICIAN...
...WHO WAS HAPPY TO PERFORM AN ABORTION.

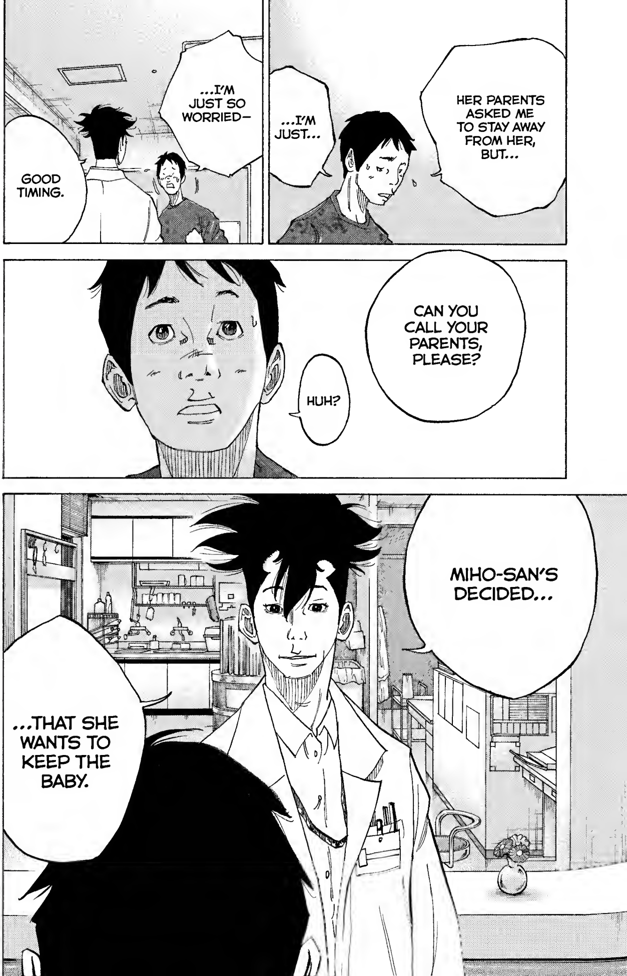

SO... TODAY'S THE DAY.
BA-CHAN
IB A- CH AN
THEY'RE TAKING THAT GIRL TO THE HOSPITAL.
...
GO ON. GO SEE HER.
HUH?
WELL, YOU KNOW. SHE MUST BE SCARED RIGHT NOW.
I'M SURE SHE COULD USE THE SUPPORT.
...THE FUNNY THING ABOUT WOMEN IS...
...IN TIMES LIKE THIS, YOU KNOW WHO THEY WANT BY THEIR SIDE?
IT'S NOT THEIR PARENTS.


IT'S THE MAN THEY LOVE, RIGHT?
...
I'VE NEVER MET AN OBSTETRICIAN WHO WAS HAPPY TO PERFORM AN ABORTION.
PARTICULARLY NOT FOR A PATIENT...
...WHOSE MIND ISN'T QUITE MADE UP.
...
BUT, MIHO-SAN...
...
ABORTION IS A CHOICE WHICH, ULTIMATELY...
...NO ONE CAN MAKE FOR THE MOTHER.

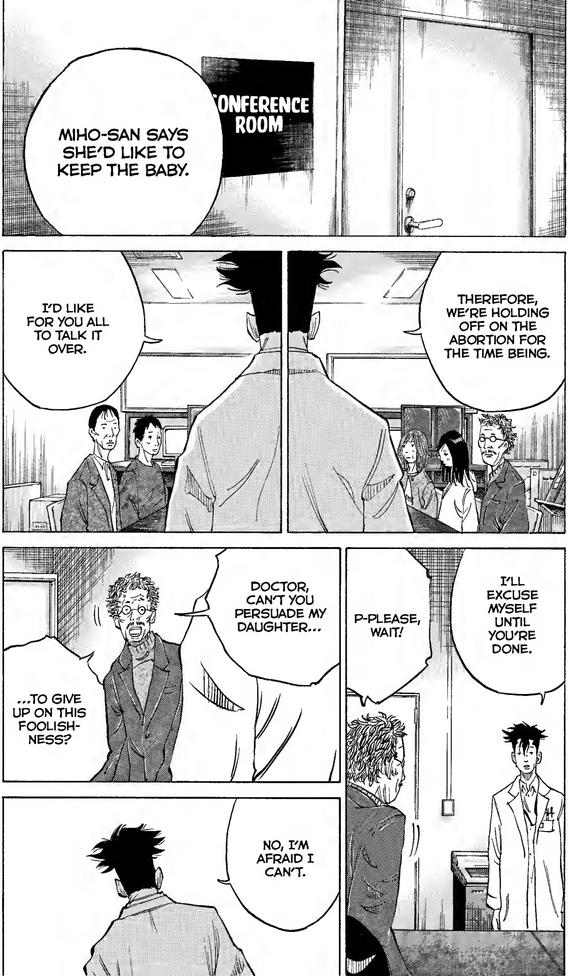

IT'S TRUE THAT ABORTION MEANS ONE LIFE ENDS.
BUT IF YOU'RE GOING TO REMEMBER THE LIFE THAT COULD HAVE BEEN...
...
...
...AND MAKE SURE YOU DON'T MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE EVER AGAIN...
...THE CHOICE NEEDS TO BE YOURS.
ONLY YOU CAN SAY WHAT YOU NEED TO DO TO FIND HAPPINESS GOING FORWARD.
IT'S TRUE THAT SINCE YOU'RE IN HIGH SCHOOL...
...YOU NEED YOUR PARENTS' PERMISSION TO ABORT.
AND SHOULD YOU DECIDE TO KEEP THE BABY...
...YOU'LL NEED THEIR SUPPORT TO RAISE IT EVEN MORE.

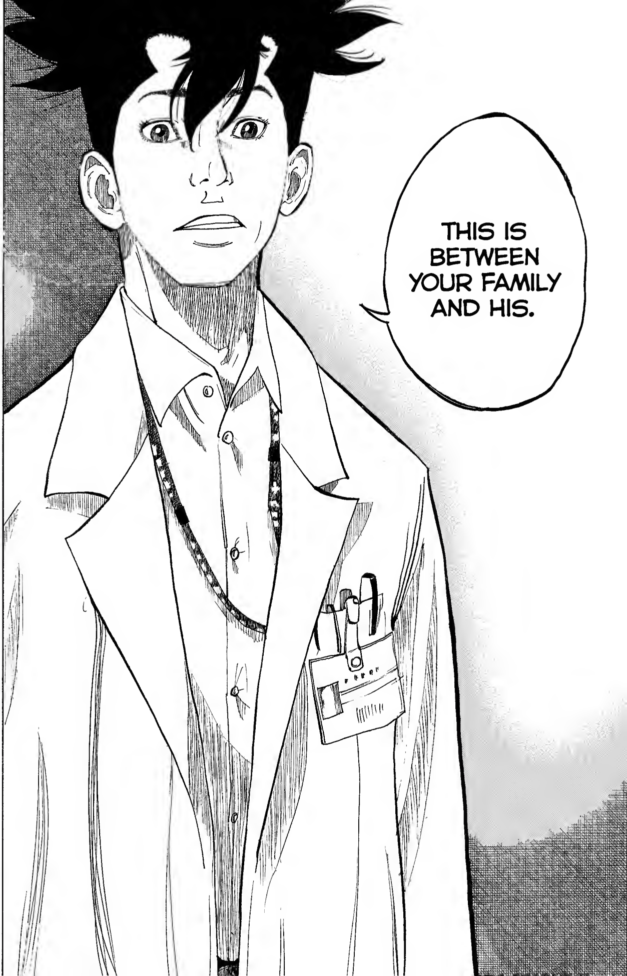

BUT YOU CAN'T MAKE THIS DECISION FOR YOUR PARENTS' SAKE.
YOU NEED TO MAKE IT FOR YOURSELF, MIHO-SAN.
MOM...
...ARE YOU GLAD YOU HAD ME?
...
MIHO, I...
...

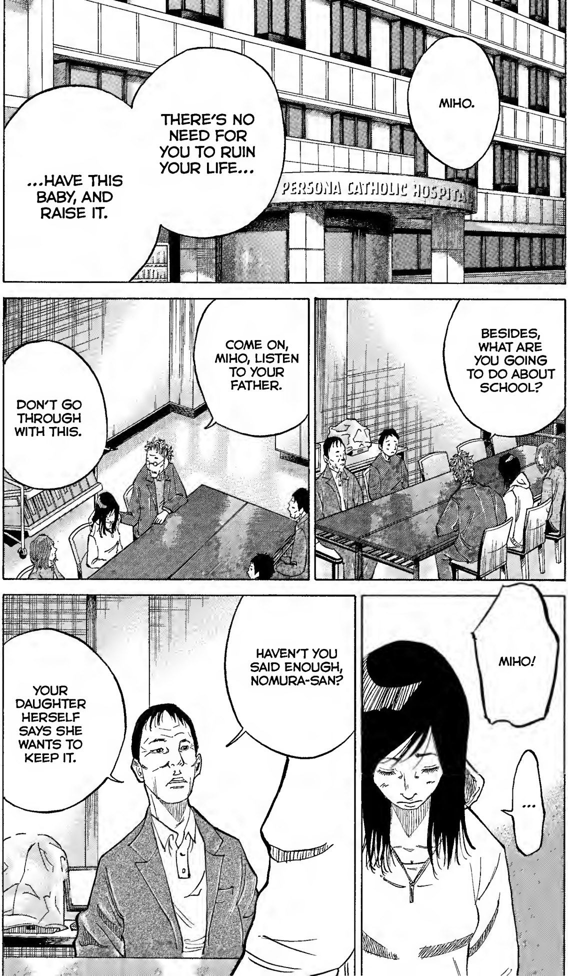

MOM...!
EXCUSE ME...WHERE IS NOMURA MIHO'S ROOM?
NURSE STATION
MIHO-SAN?
ARE YOU HER PARTNER?
...YES, SIR...

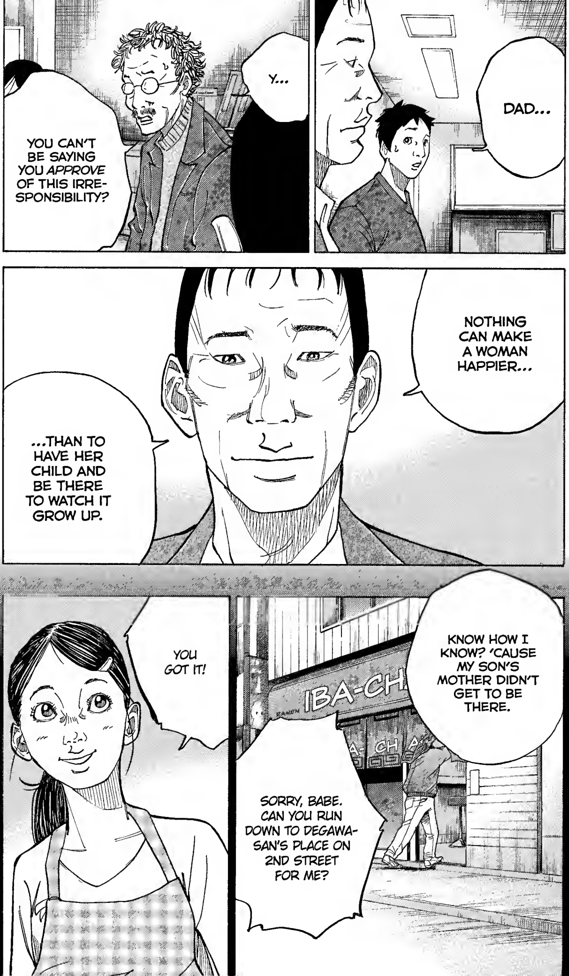

HER PARENTS ASKED ME TO STAY AWAY FROM HER, BUT...
...I'M JUST...
...I'M JUST SO WORRIED—
GOOD TIMING.
CAN YOU CALL YOUR PARENTS, PLEASE?
HUH?
MIHO-SAN'S DECIDED...
...THAT SHE WANTS TO KEEP THE BABY.

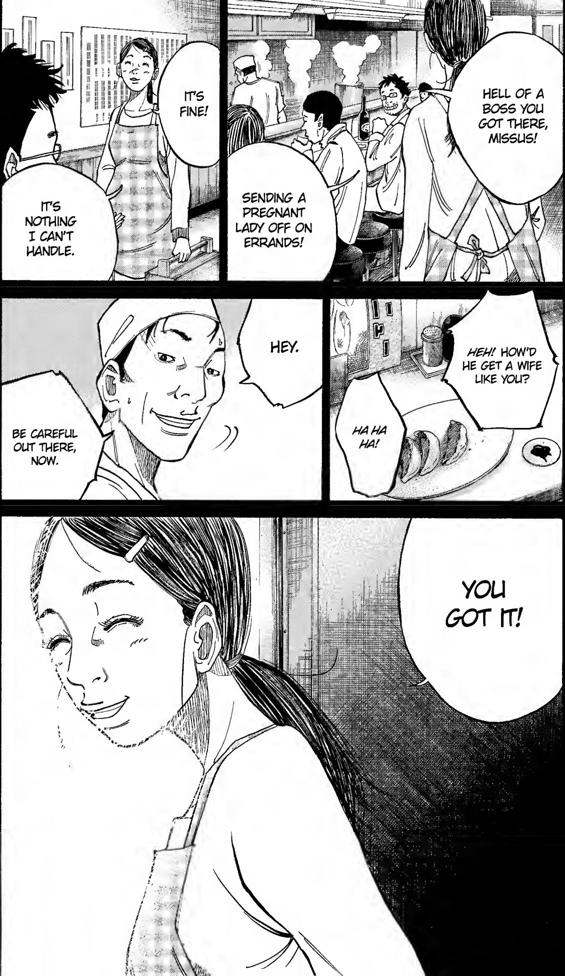
TEENAGE PREGNANCY (3) / END

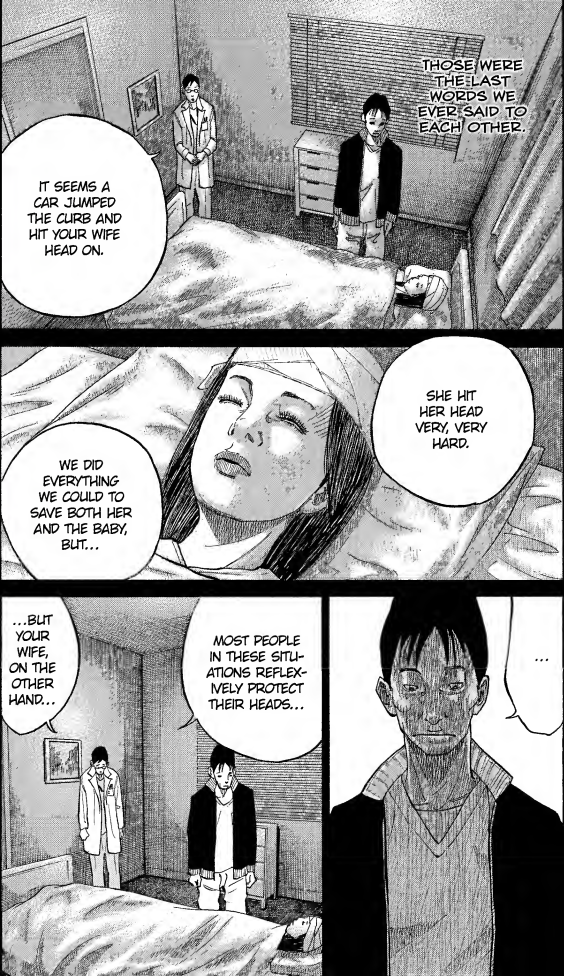

CONFERENCE ROOM
MIHO-SAN SAYS SHE'D LIKE TO KEEP THE BABY.
THEREFORE, WE'RE HOLDING OFF ON THE ABORTION FOR THE TIME BEING.
I'D LIKE FOR YOU ALL TO TALK IT OVER.
I'LL EXCUSE MYSELF UNTIL YOU'RE DONE.
P-PLEASE, WAIT!
DOCTOR, CAN'T YOU PERSUADE MY DAUGHTER...
...TO GIVE UP ON THIS FOOLISHNESS?
NO, I'M AFRAID I CAN'T.

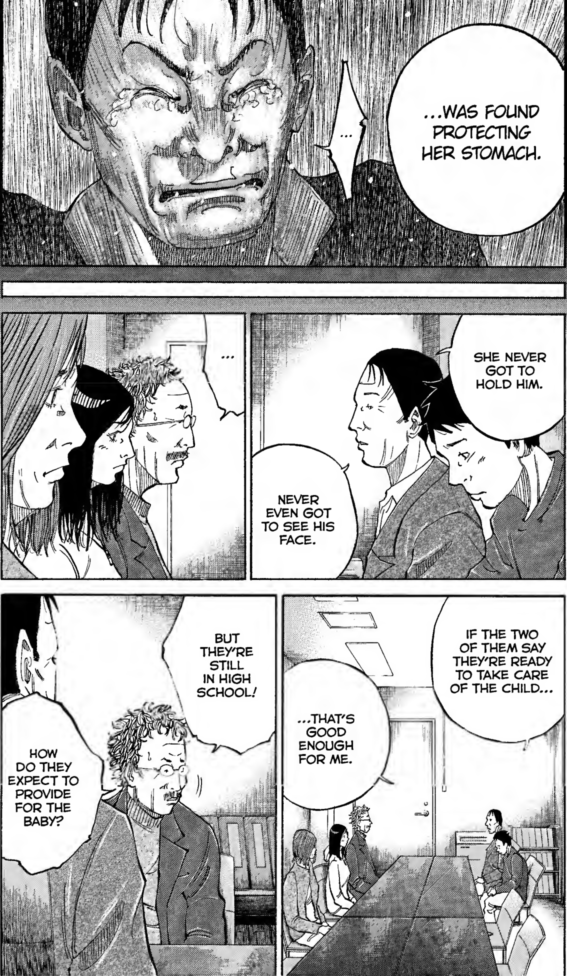

THIS IS BETWEEN YOUR FAMILY AND HIS.

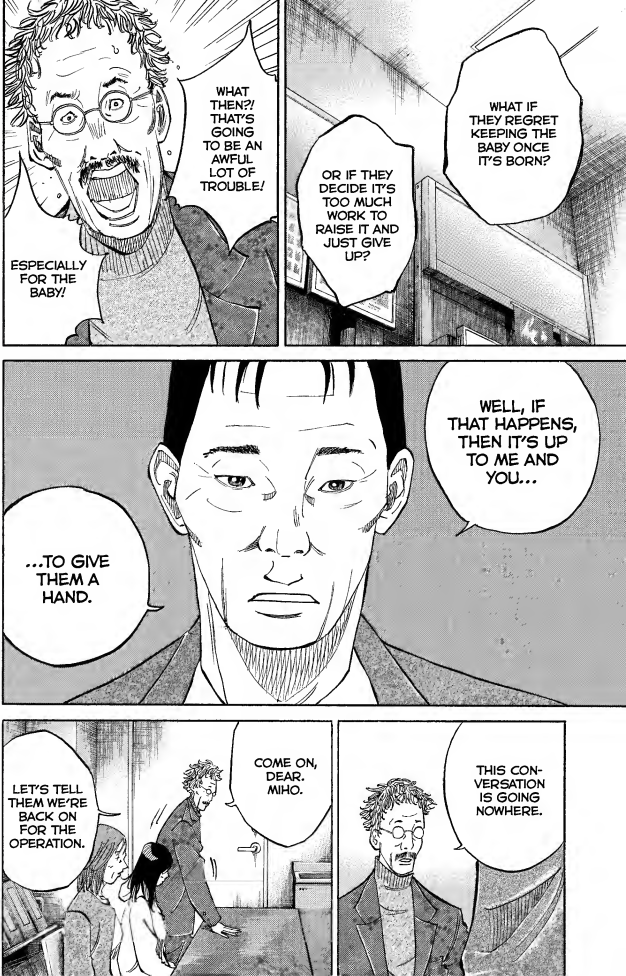

MIHO.
THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO RUIN YOUR LIFE...
...HAVE THIS BABY, AND RAISE IT.
PERSONA CATHOLIC HOSPITA
BESIDES, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT SCHOOL?
COME ON, MIHO, LISTEN TO YOUR FATHER.
DON'T GO THROUGH WITH THIS.
MIHO!
...
HAVEN'T YOU SAID ENOUGH, NOMURA-SAN?
YOUR DAUGHTER HERSELF SAYS SHE WANTS TO KEEP IT.

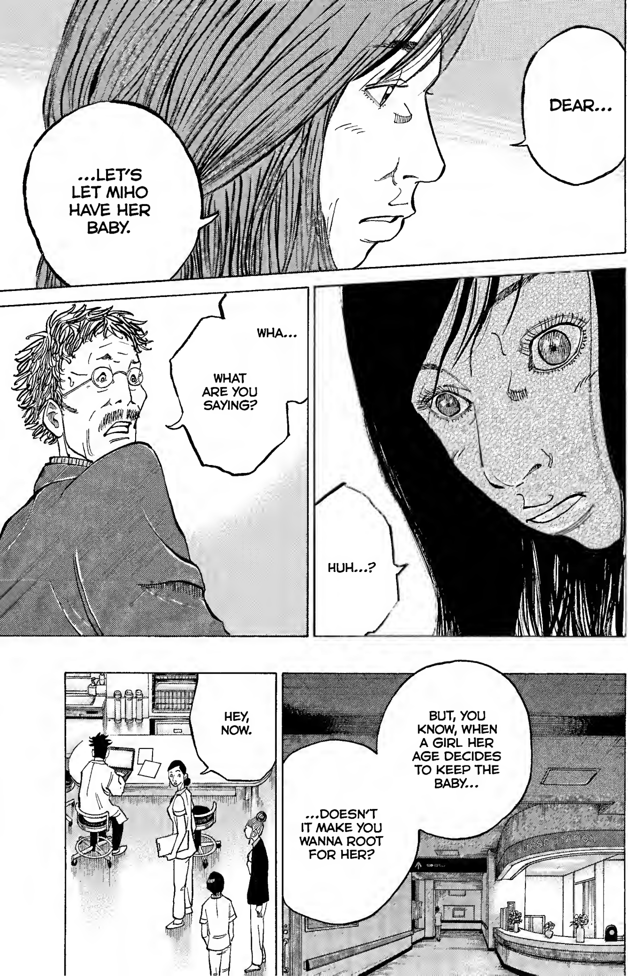

DAD...
Y...
YOU CAN'T BE SAYING YOU *APPROVE* OF THIS IRRESPONSIBILITY?
NOTHING CAN MAKE A WOMAN HAPPIER...
...THAN TO HAVE HER CHILD AND BE THERE TO WATCH IT GROW UP.
KNOW HOW I KNOW? 'CAUSE MY SON'S MOTHER DIDN'T GET TO BE THERE.
RAMEN IBA-CH
A CH A
SORRY, BABE. CAN YOU RUN DOWN TO DEGAWA-SAN'S PLACE ON 2ND STREET FOR ME?
YOU GOT IT!

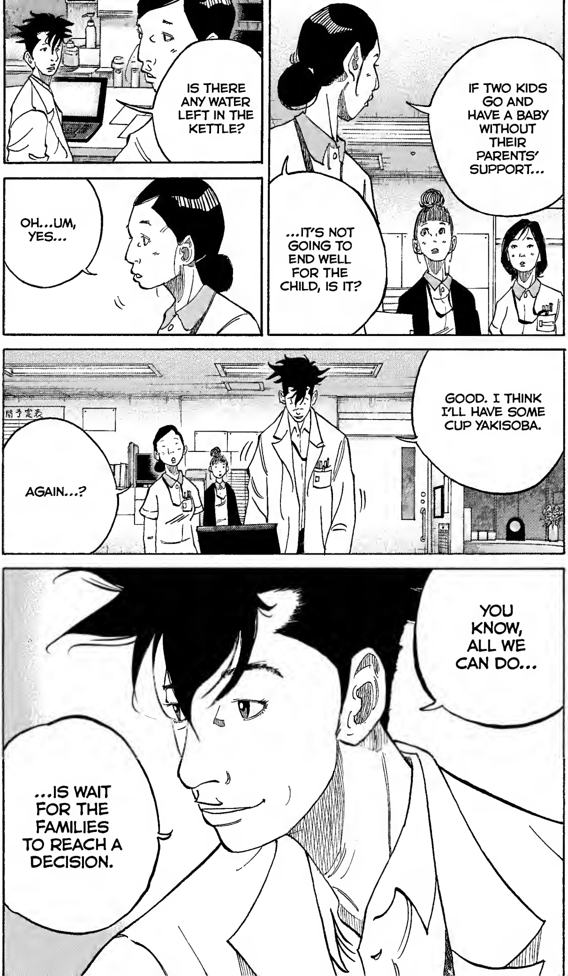

HELL OF A BOSS YOU GOT THERE, MISSUS!
SENDING A PREGNANT LADY OFF ON ERRANDS!
IT'S FINE!
IT'S NOTHING I CAN'T HANDLE.
HEH! HOW'D HE GET A WIFE LIKE YOU?
HA HA HA!
HEY.
BE CAREFUL OUT THERE, NOW.
YOU GOT IT!

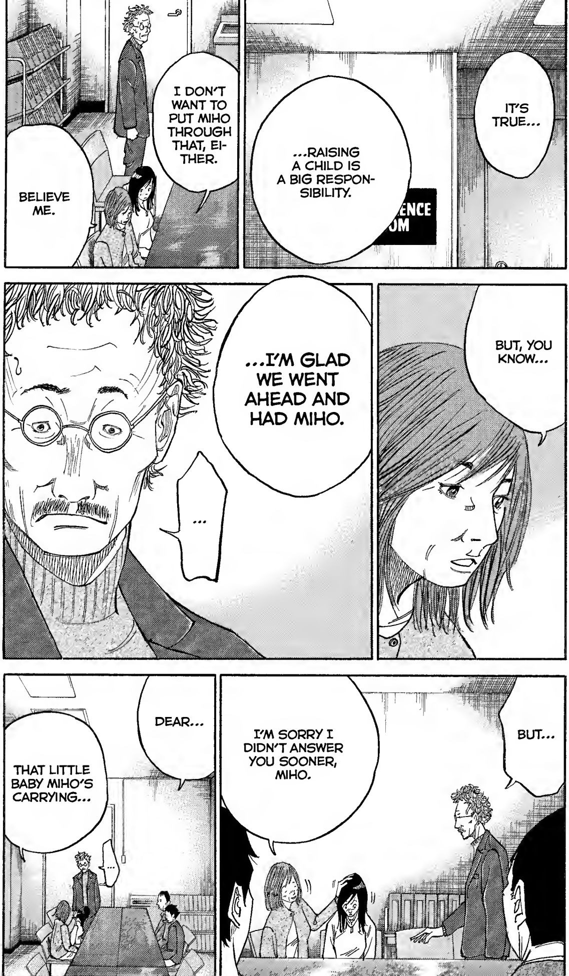

THOSE WERE THE LAST WORDS WE EVER SAID TO EACH OTHER.
IT SEEMS A CAR JUMPED THE CURB AND HIT YOUR WIFE HEAD ON.
SHE HIT HER HEAD VERY, VERY HARD.
WE DID EVERYTHING WE COULD TO SAVE BOTH HER AND THE BABY, BUT...
...
MOST PEOPLE IN THESE SITUATIONS REFLEXIVELY PROTECT THEIR HEADS...
...BUT YOUR WIFE, ON THE OTHER HAND...

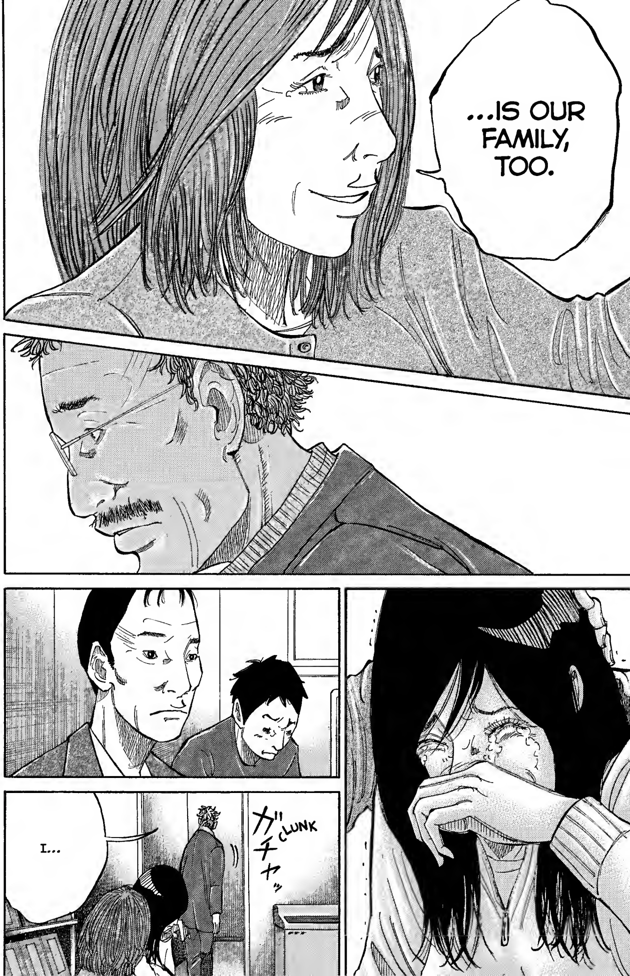

...WAS FOUND PROTECTING HER STOMACH.
...
SHE NEVER GOT TO HOLD HIM.
NEVER EVEN GOT TO SEE HIS FACE.
...
IF THE TWO OF THEM SAY THEY'RE READY TO TAKE CARE OF THE CHILD...
...THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME.
BUT THEY'RE STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL!
HOW DO THEY EXPECT TO PROVIDE FOR THE BABY?

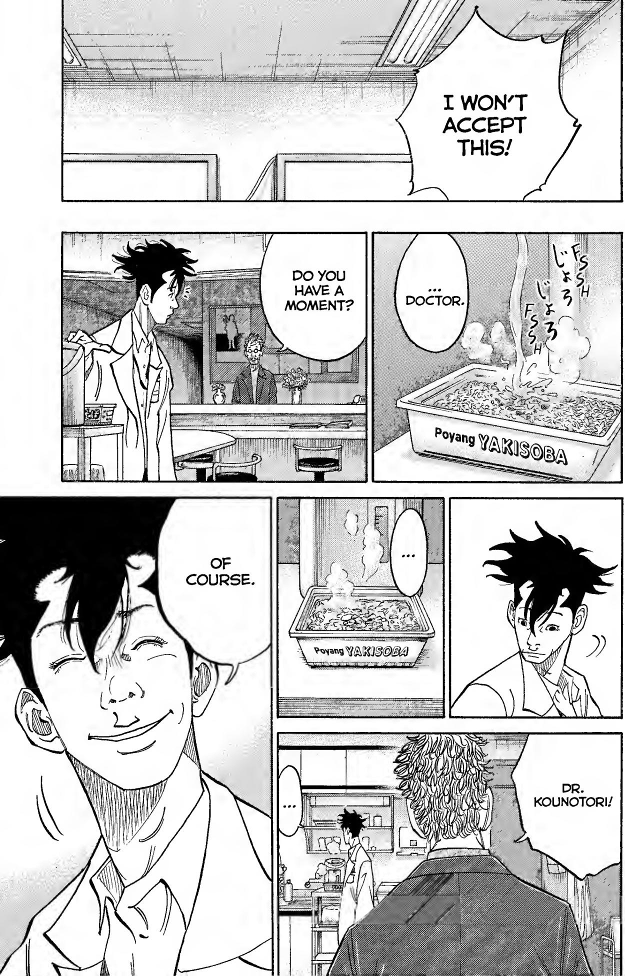

WHAT IF THEY REGRET KEEPING THE BABY ONCE IT'S BORN?
OR IF THEY DECIDE IT'S TOO MUCH WORK TO RAISE IT AND JUST GIVE UP?
WHAT THEN?! THAT'S GOING TO BE AN AWFUL LOT OF TROUBLE!
ESPECIALLY FOR THE BABY!
WELL, IF THAT HAPPENS, THEN IT'S UP TO ME AND YOU...
...TO GIVE THEM A HAND.
THIS CONVERSATION IS GOING NOWHERE.
COME ON, DEAR. MIHO.
LET'S TELL THEM WE'RE BACK ON FOR THE OPERATION.

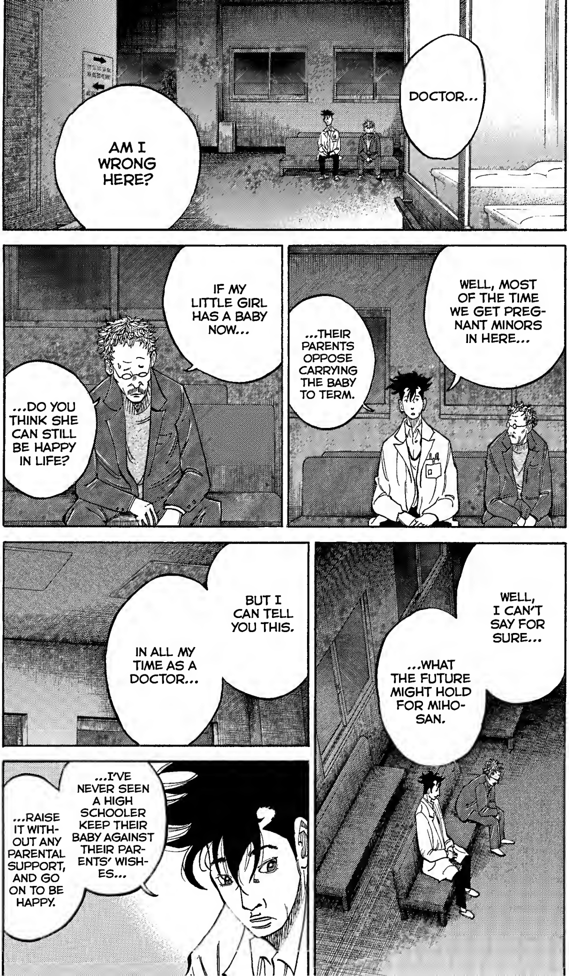

DEAR...
...LET'S LET MIHO HAVE HER BABY.
HUH...?
WHA...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
BUT, YOU KNOW, WHEN A GIRL HER AGE DECIDES TO KEEP THE BABY...
...DOESN'T IT MAKE YOU WANNA ROOT FOR HER?
HEY, NOW.

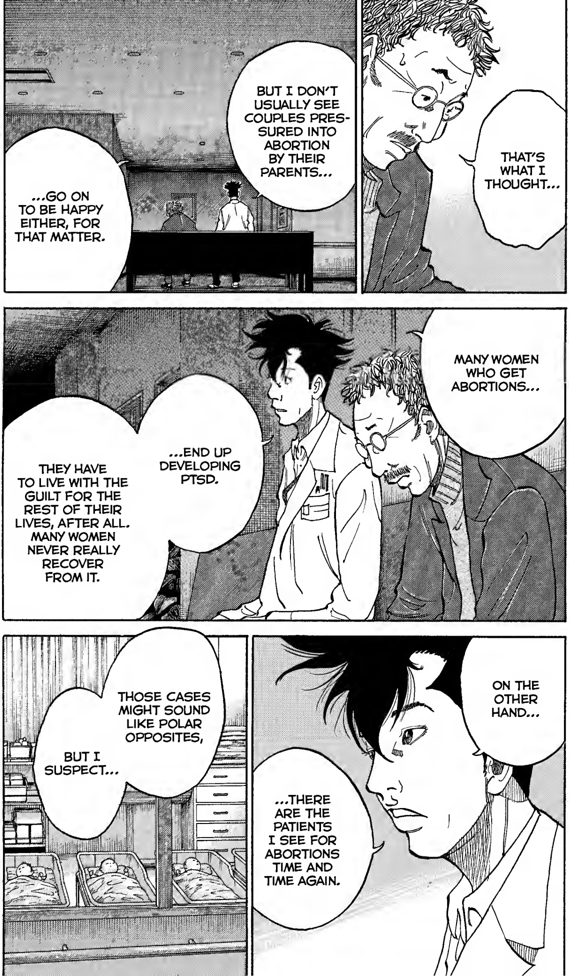

IF TWO KIDS GO AND HAVE A BABY WITHOUT THEIR PARENTS' SUPPORT...
...IT'S NOT GOING TO END WELL FOR THE CHILD, IS IT?
IS THERE ANY WATER LEFT IN THE KETTLE?
OH...UM, YES...
GOOD. I THINK I'LL HAVE SOME CUP YAKISOBA.
間予定表
AGAIN...?
YOU KNOW, ALL WE CAN DO...
...IS WAIT FOR THE FAMILIES TO REACH A DECISION.

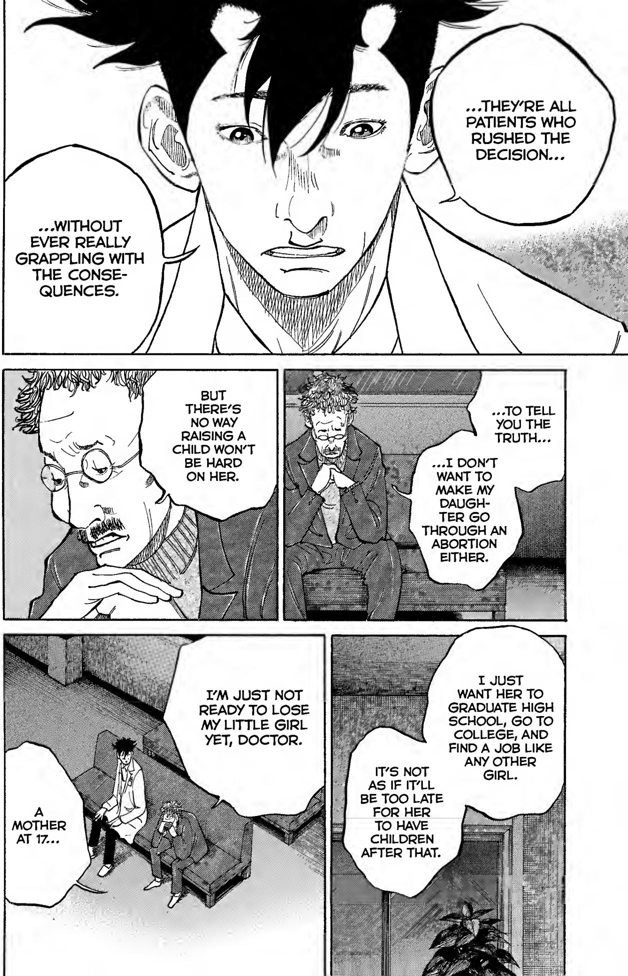

IT'S TRUE...
...RAISING A CHILD IS A BIG RESPONSIBILITY.
ENCE OM
I DON'T WANT TO PUT MIHO THROUGH THAT, EITHER.
BELIEVE ME.
BUT, YOU KNOW...
...I'M GLAD WE WENT AHEAD AND HAD MIHO.
...
BUT...
I'M SORRY I DIDN'T ANSWER YOU SOONER, MIHO.
DEAR...
THAT LITTLE BABY MIHO'S CARRYING...
...

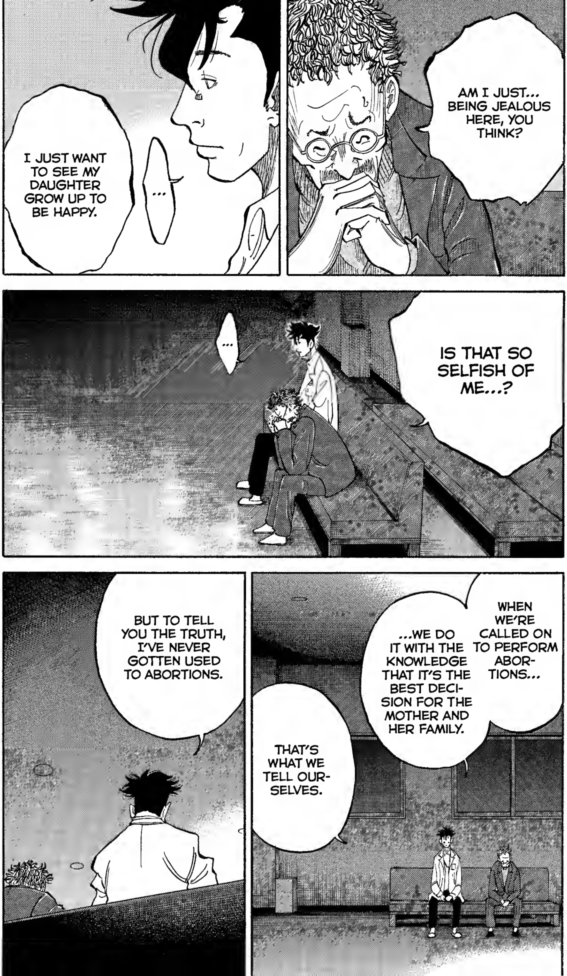

...IS OUR FAMILY, TOO.
ガチャッ
CLUNK
I...

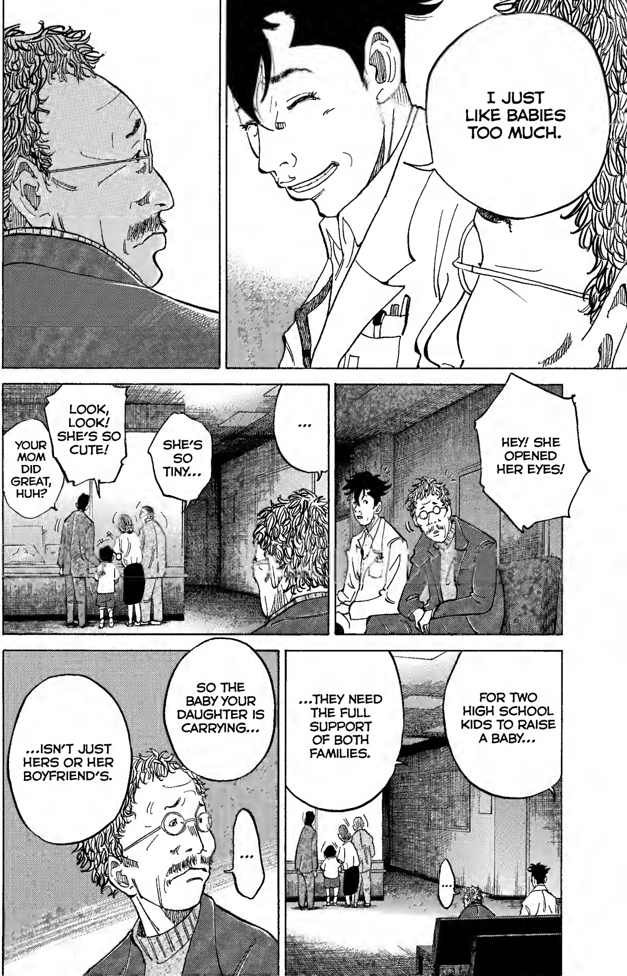

I WON'T ACCEPT THIS!
... DOCTOR.
FSSH
じょろ
じょろ
FSSH
Poyang YAKISOBA
DO YOU HAVE A MOMENT?
...
Poyang YAKISOBA
DR. KOUNOTORI!
...
OF COURSE.

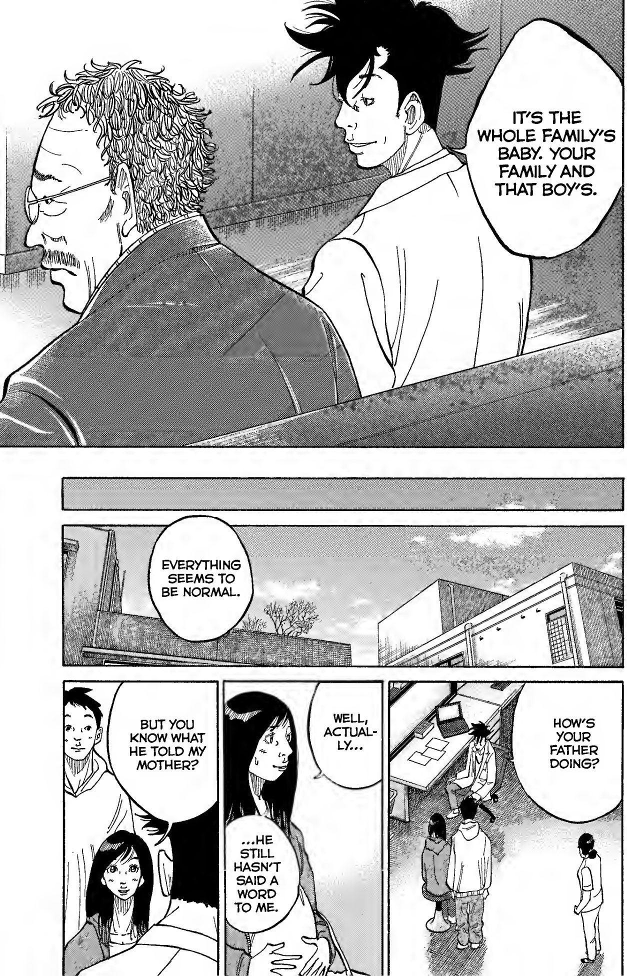

DOCTOR...
AM I WRONG HERE?
WELL, MOST OF THE TIME WE GET PREGNANT MINORS IN HERE...
...THEIR PARENTS OPPOSE CARRYING THE BABY TO TERM.
IF MY LITTLE GIRL HAS A BABY NOW...
...DO YOU THINK SHE CAN STILL BE HAPPY IN LIFE?
WELL, I CAN'T SAY FOR SURE...
...WHAT THE FUTURE MIGHT HOLD FOR MIHO-SAN.
BUT I CAN TELL YOU THIS.
IN ALL MY TIME AS A DOCTOR...
...I'VE NEVER SEEN A HIGH SCHOOLER KEEP THEIR BABY AGAINST THEIR PARENTS' WISHES...
...RAISE IT WITHOUT ANY PARENTAL SUPPORT, AND GO ON TO BE HAPPY.

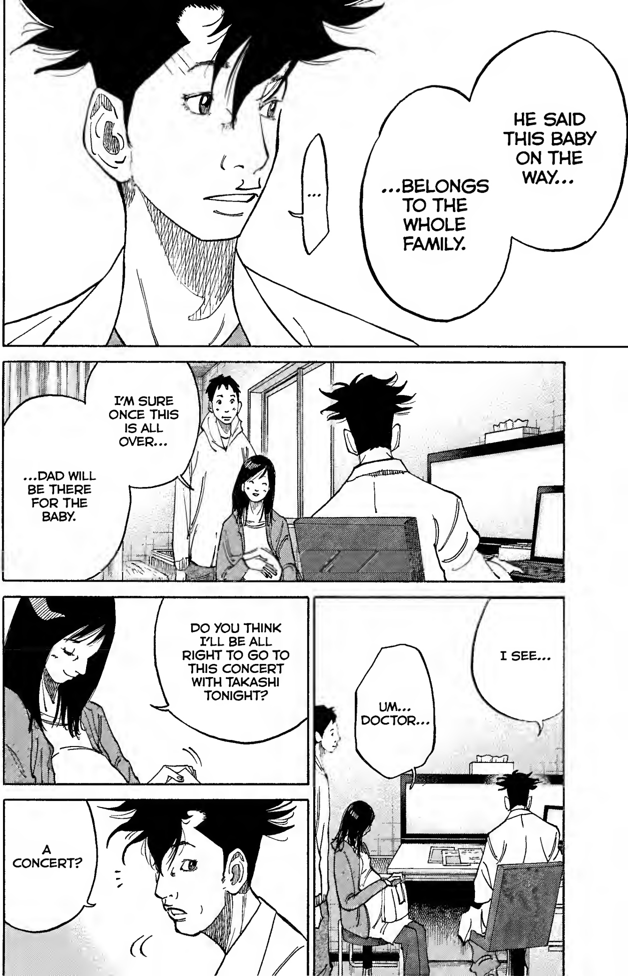

THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT...
BUT I DON'T USUALLY SEE COUPLES PRESSURED INTO ABORTION BY THEIR PARENTS...
...GO ON TO BE HAPPY EITHER, FOR THAT MATTER.
MANY WOMEN WHO GET ABORTIONS...
...END UP DEVELOPING PTSD.
THEY HAVE TO LIVE WITH THE GUILT FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES, AFTER ALL. MANY WOMEN NEVER REALLY RECOVER FROM IT.
ON THE OTHER HAND...
...THERE ARE THE PATIENTS I SEE FOR ABORTIONS TIME AND TIME AGAIN.
THOSE CASES MIGHT SOUND LIKE POLAR OPPOSITES,
BUT I SUSPECT...

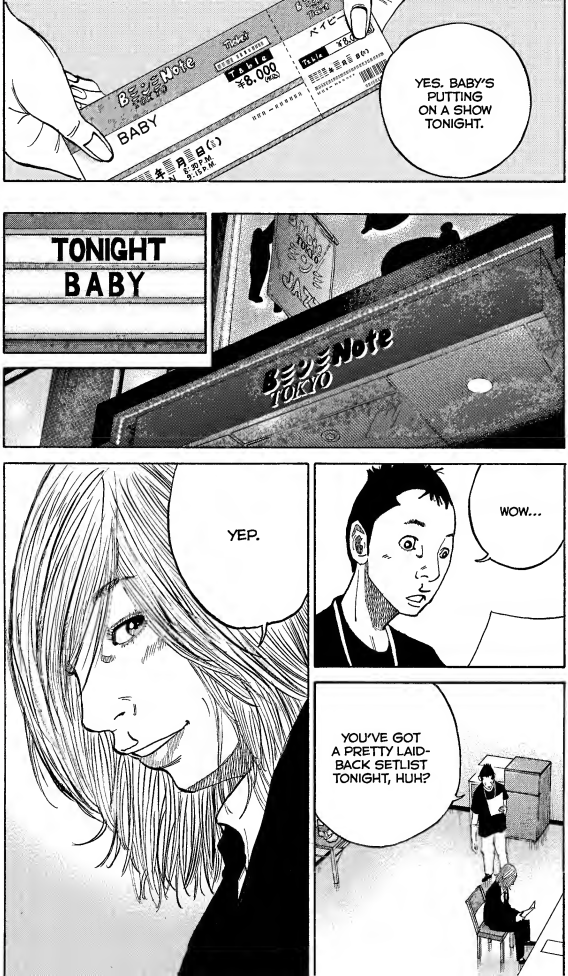

...THEY'RE ALL PATIENTS WHO RUSHED THE DECISION...
...WITHOUT EVER REALLY GRAPPLING WITH THE CONSEQUENCES.
...TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH...
...I DON'T WANT TO MAKE MY DAUGHTER GO THROUGH AN ABORTION EITHER.
BUT THERE'S NO WAY RAISING A CHILD WON'T BE HARD ON HER.
I JUST WANT HER TO GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL, GO TO COLLEGE, AND FIND A JOB LIKE ANY OTHER GIRL.
IT'S NOT AS IF IT'LL BE TOO LATE FOR HER TO HAVE CHILDREN AFTER THAT.
I'M JUST NOT READY TO LOSE MY LITTLE GIRL YET, DOCTOR.
A MOTHER AT 17...

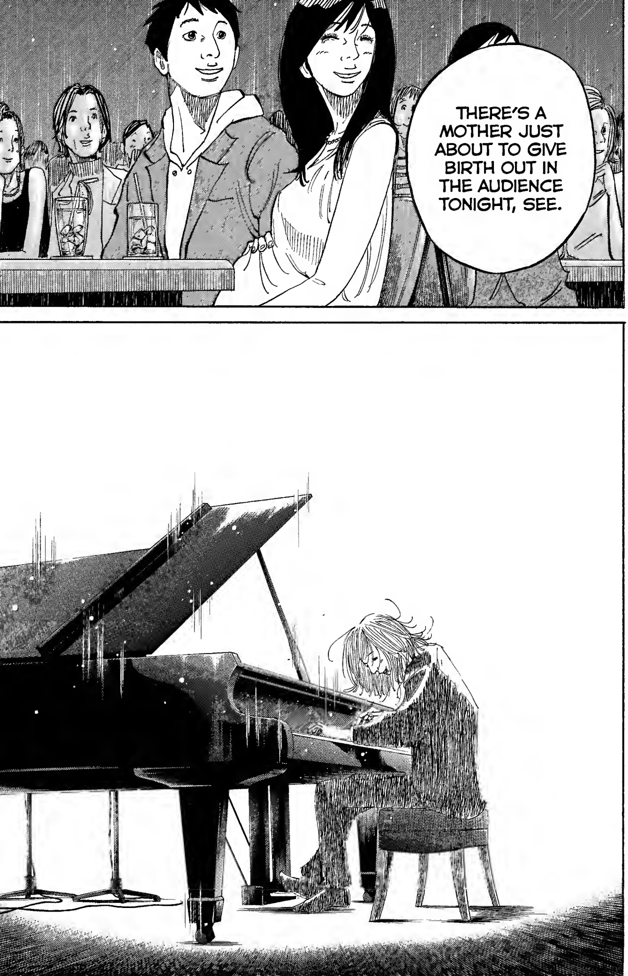

I JUST WANT TO SEE MY DAUGHTER GROW UP TO BE HAPPY.
...
AM I JUST... BEING JEALOUS HERE, YOU THINK?
...
IS THAT SO SELFISH OF ME...?
BUT TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I'VE NEVER GOTTEN USED TO ABORTIONS.
WHEN WE'RE CALLED ON TO PERFORM ABORTIONS...
...WE DO IT WITH THE KNOWLEDGE THAT IT'S THE BEST DECISION FOR THE MOTHER AND HER FAMILY.
THAT'S WHAT WE TELL OURSELVES.


I JUST LIKE BABIES TOO MUCH.
HEY! SHE OPENED HER EYES!
...
SHE'S SO TINY...
LOOK, LOOK! SHE'S SO CUTE!
YOUR MOM DID GREAT, HUH?
FOR TWO HIGH SCHOOL KIDS TO RAISE A BABY...
...THEY NEED THE FULL SUPPORT OF BOTH FAMILIES.
...
SO THE BABY YOUR DAUGHTER IS CARRYING...
...ISN'T JUST HERS OR HER BOYFRIEND'S.
...


IT'S THE WHOLE FAMILY'S BABY. YOUR FAMILY AND THAT BOY'S.
EVERYTHING SEEMS TO BE NORMAL.
HOW'S YOUR FATHER DOING?
WELL, ACTUALLY...
...HE STILL HASN'T SAID A WORD TO ME.
BUT YOU KNOW WHAT HE TOLD MY MOTHER?

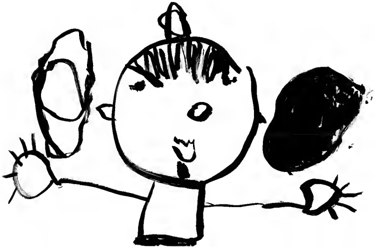

HE SAID THIS BABY ON THE WAY...
...BELONGS TO THE WHOLE FAMILY.
...
I'M SURE ONCE THIS IS ALL OVER...
...DAD WILL BE THERE FOR THE BABY.
I SEE...
UM... DOCTOR...
DO YOU THINK I'LL BE ALL RIGHT TO GO TO THIS CONCERT WITH TAKASHI TONIGHT?
A CONCERT?


YES. BABY'S PUTTING ON A SHOW TONIGHT.
B Note TOKYO
Ticket
Table ¥8,000
BABY
8:30 P.M.
9:15 P.M.
ベイビー
TONIGHT
BABY
B Note TOKYO
WOW...
YEP.
YOU'VE GOT A PRETTY LAID-BACK SETLIST TONIGHT, HUH?


THERE'S A MOTHER JUST ABOUT TO GIVE BIRTH OUT IN THE AUDIENCE TONIGHT, SEE.

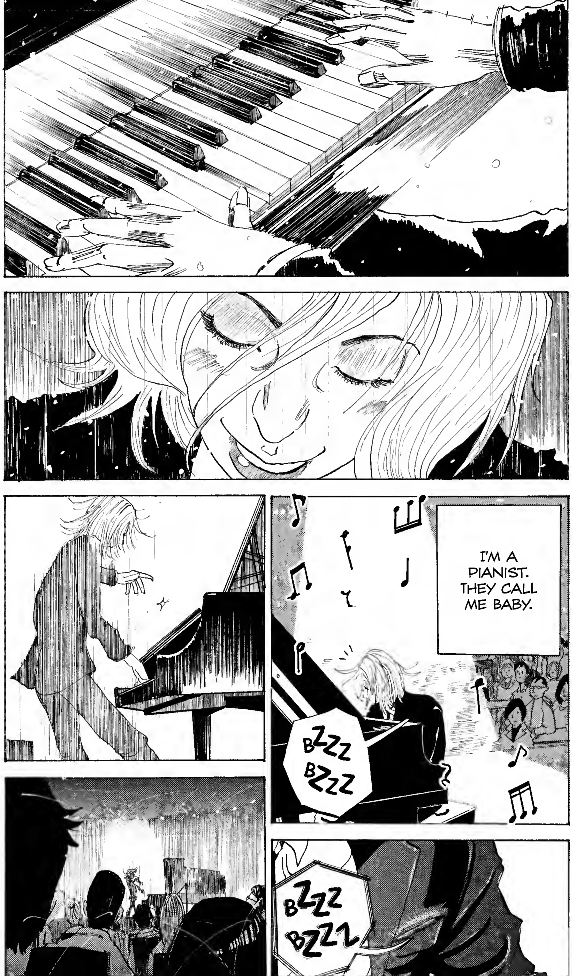
TEENAGE PREGNANCY (4) / END

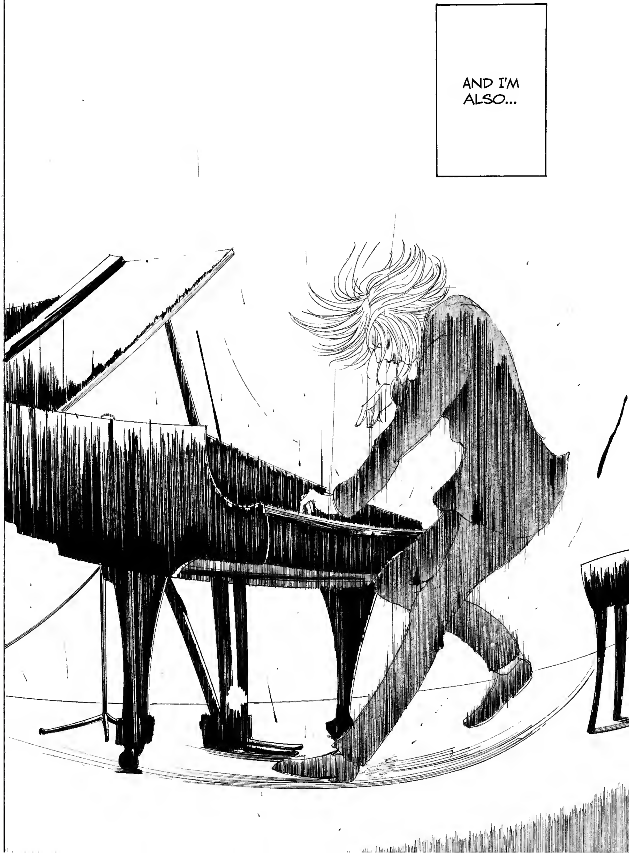
August 5th, 2013
I went to the pool today! Grown-up pools are real scary!
—Tenta

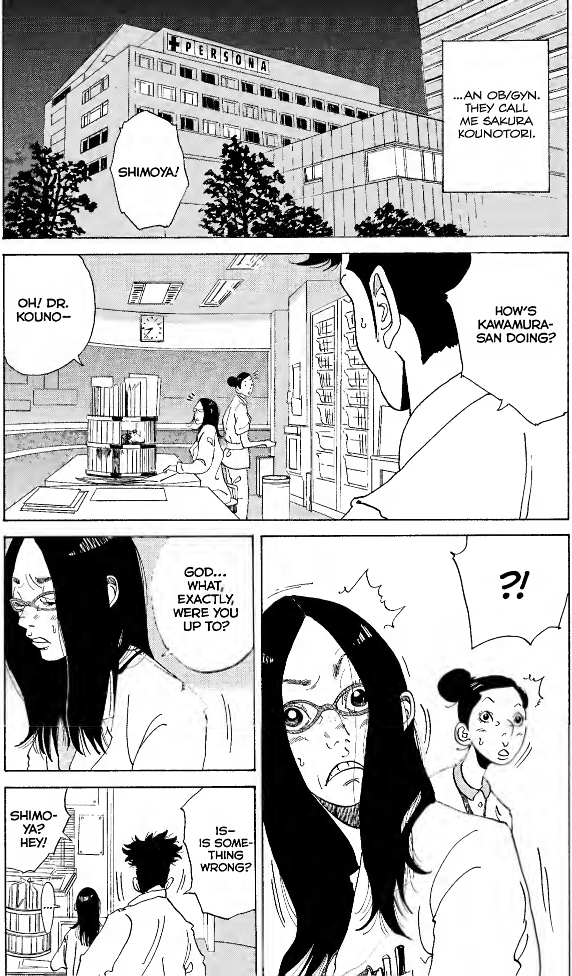


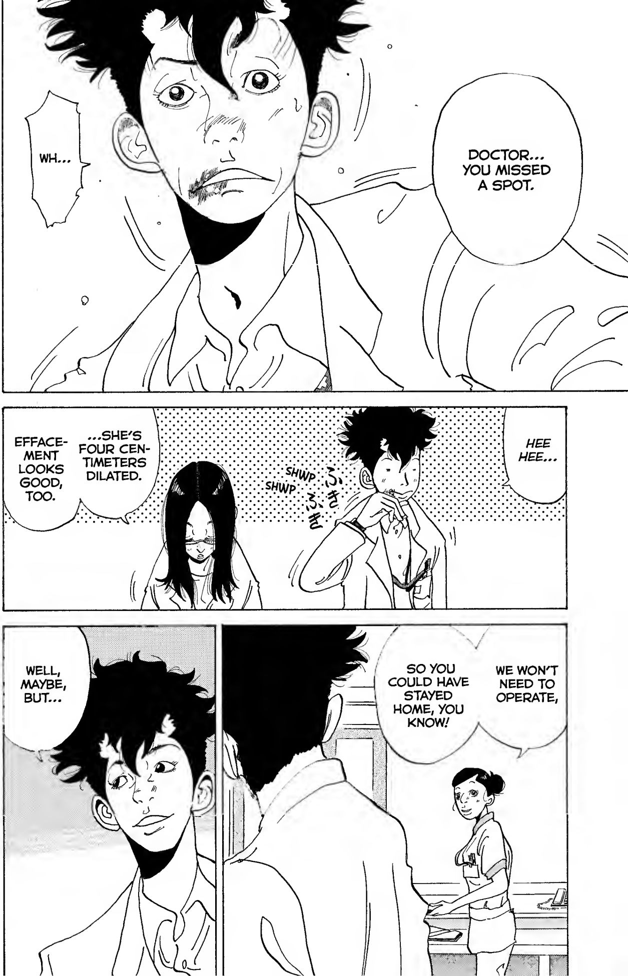
TRACK 5

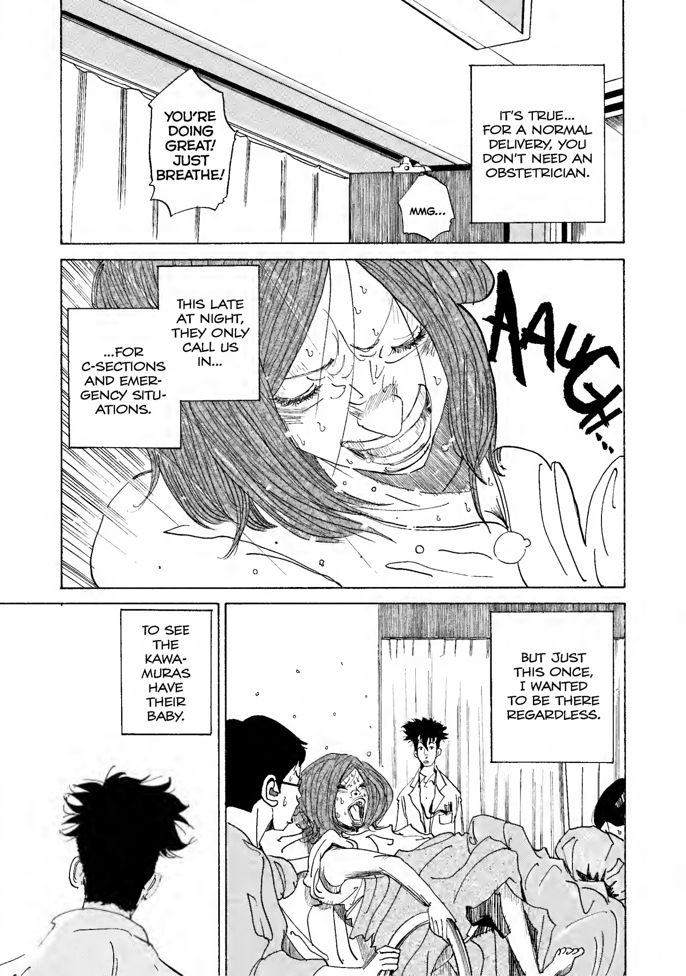
Anencephaly

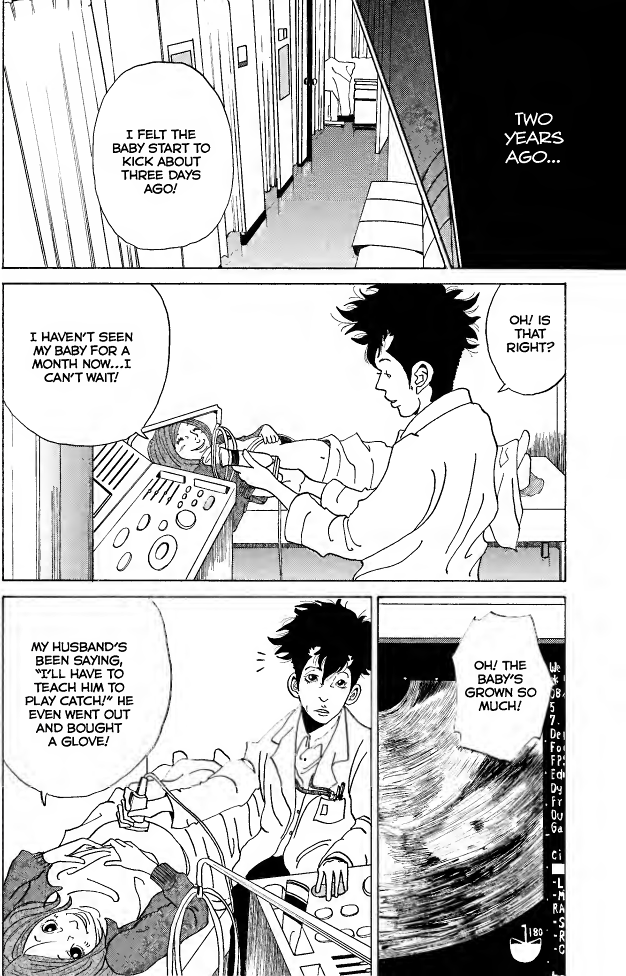

I'M A PIANIST. THEY CALL ME BABY.
BZZZ BZZZ
BZZZ BZZZ

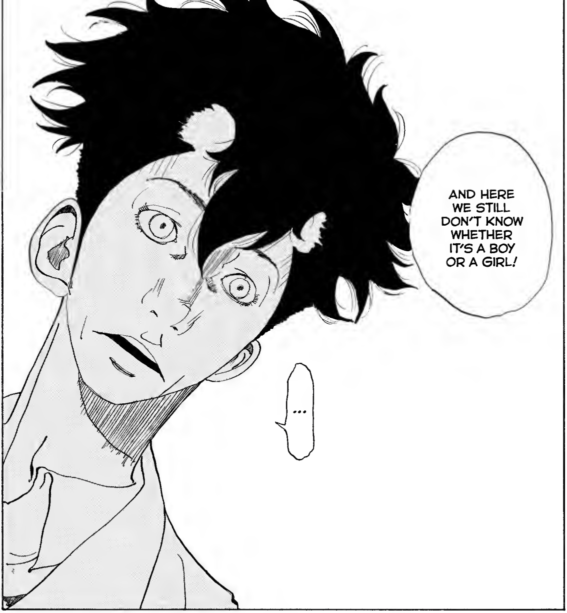

AND I'M ALSO...

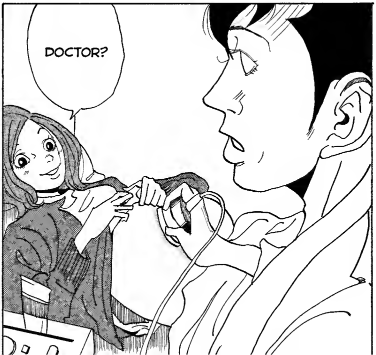

...AN OB/GYN. THEY CALL ME SAKURA KOUNOTORI.
SHIMOYA!
HOW'S KAWAMURA-SAN DOING?
OH! DR. KOUNO-
?!
GOD... WHAT, EXACTLY, WERE YOU UP TO?
IS— IS SOMETHING WRONG?
SHIMOYA? HEY!
...
PERSONA

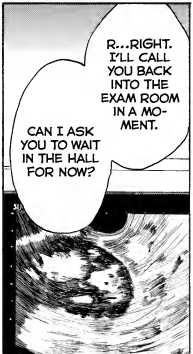

DOCTOR... YOU MISSED A SPOT.
WH...
HEE HEE...
SHWP
SHWP
ふき
ふき
...SHE'S FOUR CENTIMETERS DILATED.
EFFACEMENT LOOKS GOOD, TOO.
WE WON'T NEED TO OPERATE,
SO YOU COULD HAVE STAYED HOME, YOU KNOW!
WELL, MAYBE, BUT...

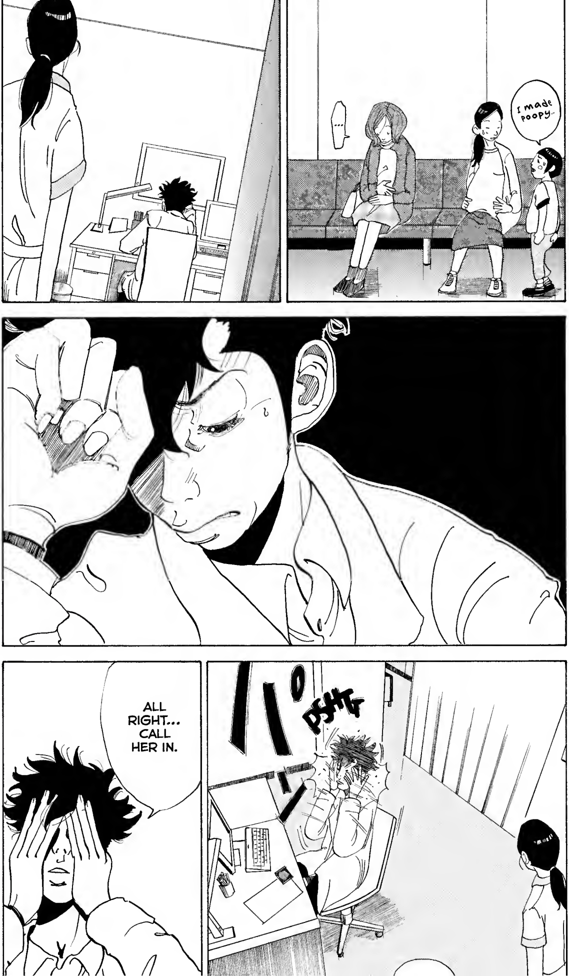

IT'S TRUE... FOR A NORMAL DELIVERY, YOU DON'T NEED AN OBSTETRICIAN.
MMG...
YOU'RE DOING GREAT! JUST BREATHE!
AAUGH...
THIS LATE AT NIGHT, THEY ONLY CALL US IN...
...FOR C-SECTIONS AND EMERGENCY SITUATIONS.
BUT JUST THIS ONCE, I WANTED TO BE THERE REGARDLESS.
TO SEE THE KAWAMURAS HAVE THEIR BABY.

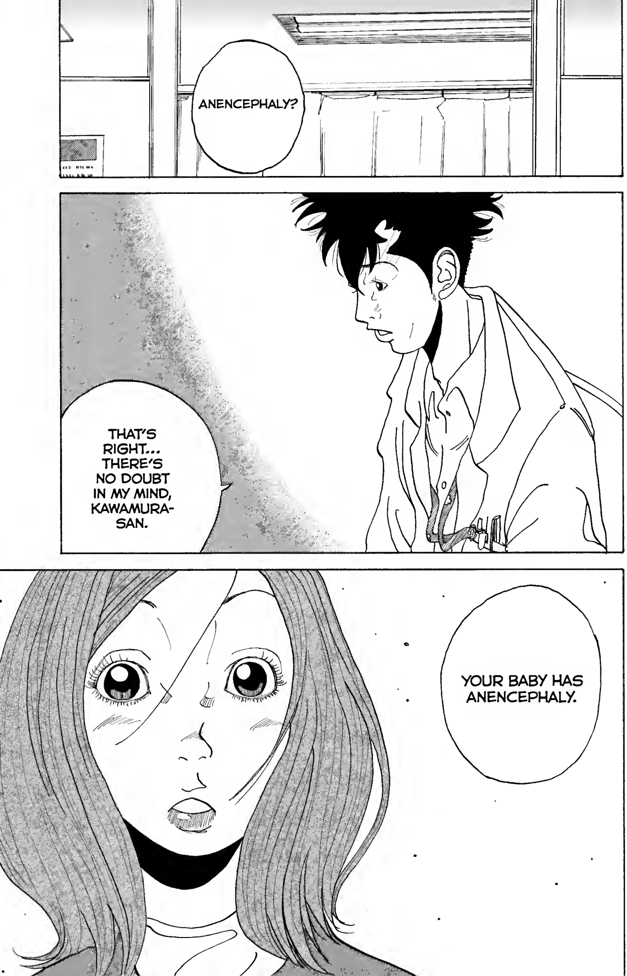

TWO YEARS AGO...
I FELT THE BABY START TO KICK ABOUT THREE DAYS AGO!
OH! IS THAT RIGHT?
I HAVEN'T SEEN MY BABY FOR A MONTH NOW...I CAN'T WAIT!
OH! THE BABY'S GROWN SO MUCH!
MY HUSBAND'S BEEN SAYING, "I'LL HAVE TO TEACH HIM TO PLAY CATCH!" HE EVEN WENT OUT AND BOUGHT A GLOVE!

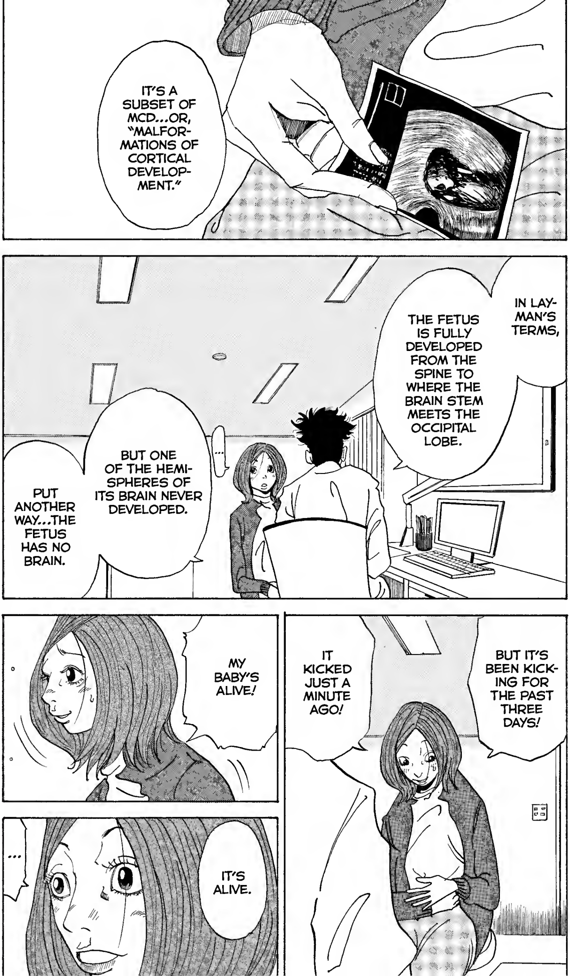

AND HERE WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHETHER IT'S A BOY OR A GIRL!
...

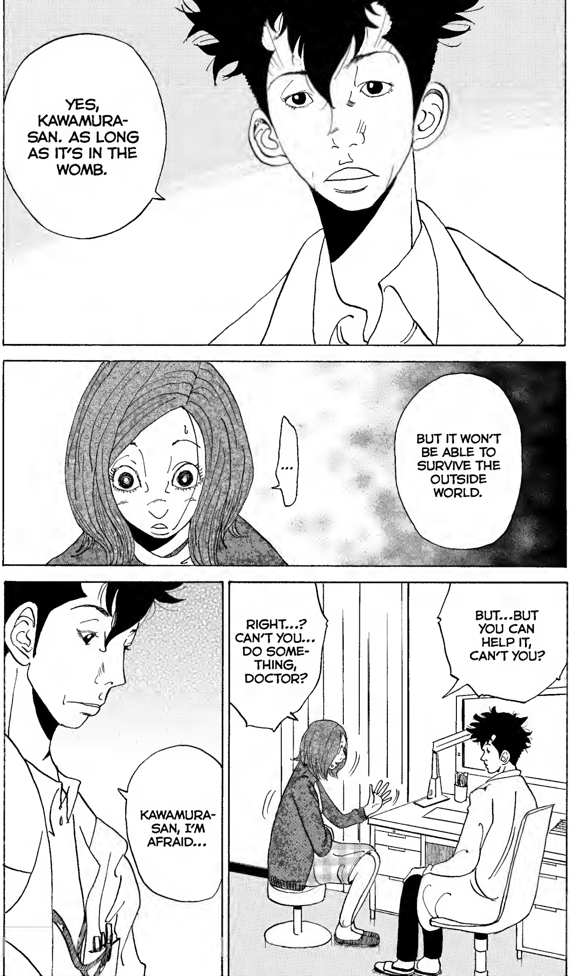

DOCTOR?

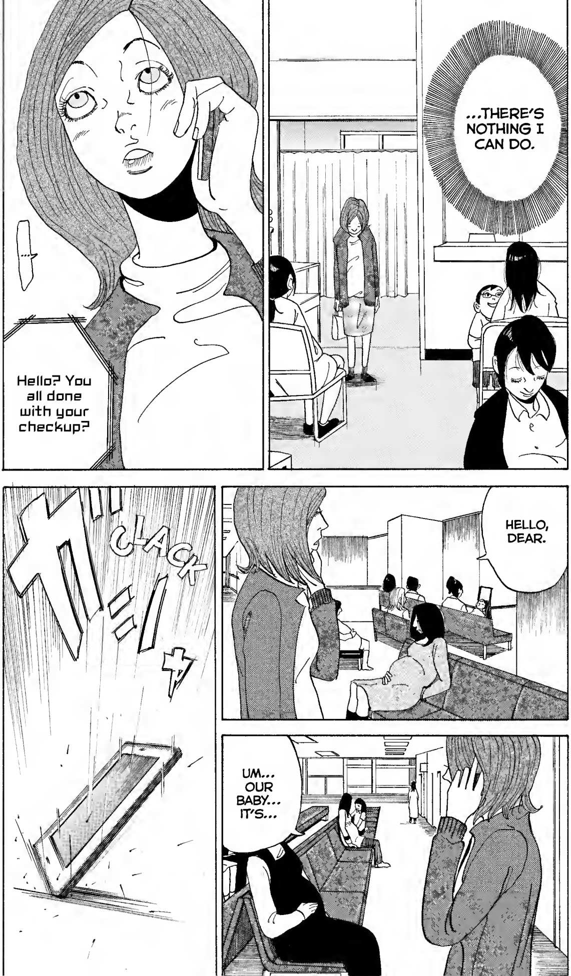

R...RIGHT. I'LL CALL YOU BACK INTO THE EXAM ROOM IN A MOMENT.
CAN I ASK YOU TO WAIT IN THE HALL FOR NOW?

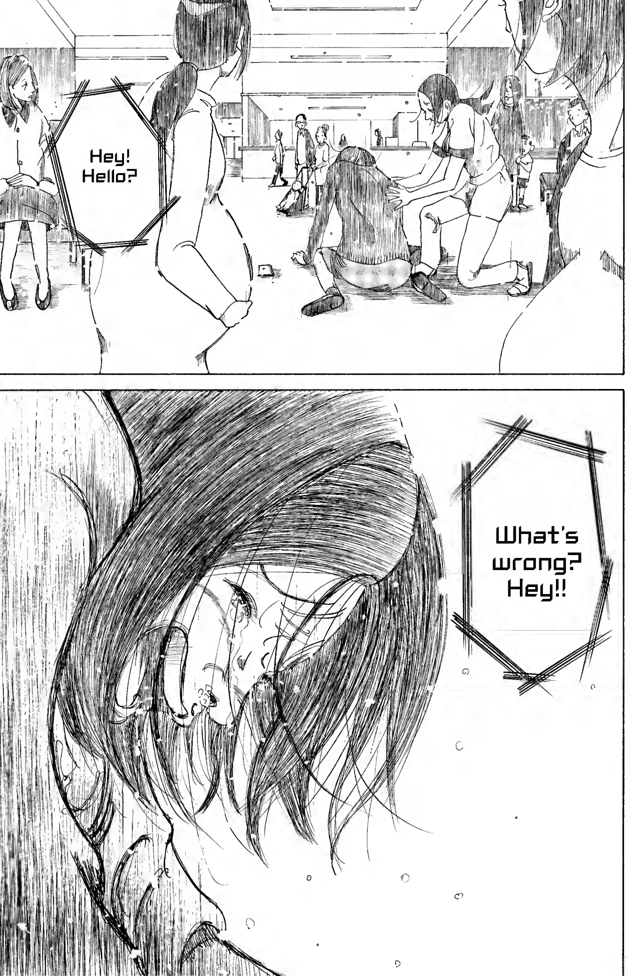

I made poopy...
...
ALL RIGHT... CALL HER IN.
DSHF

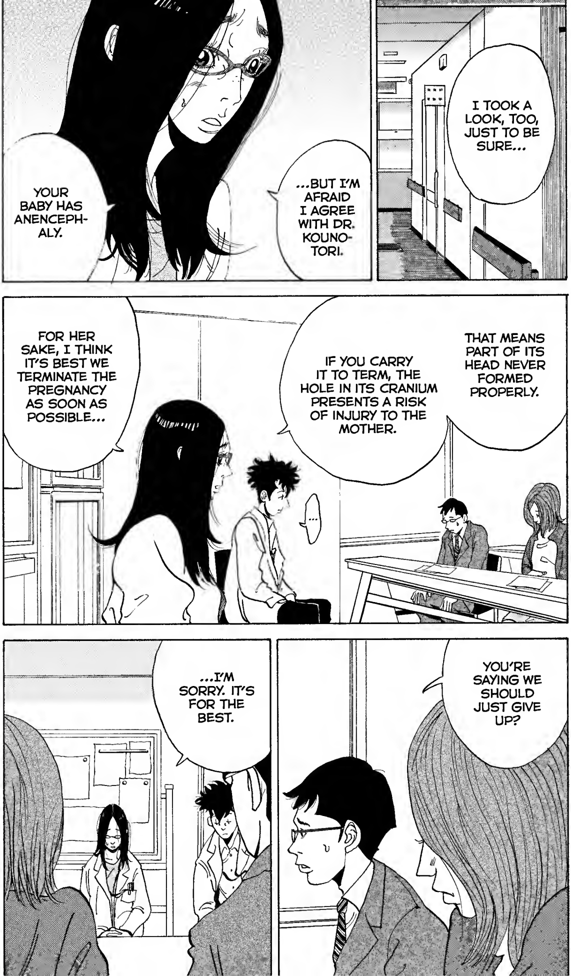

ANENCEPHALY?
THAT'S RIGHT... THERE'S NO DOUBT IN MY MIND, KAWAMURA-SAN.
YOUR BABY HAS ANENCEPHALY.

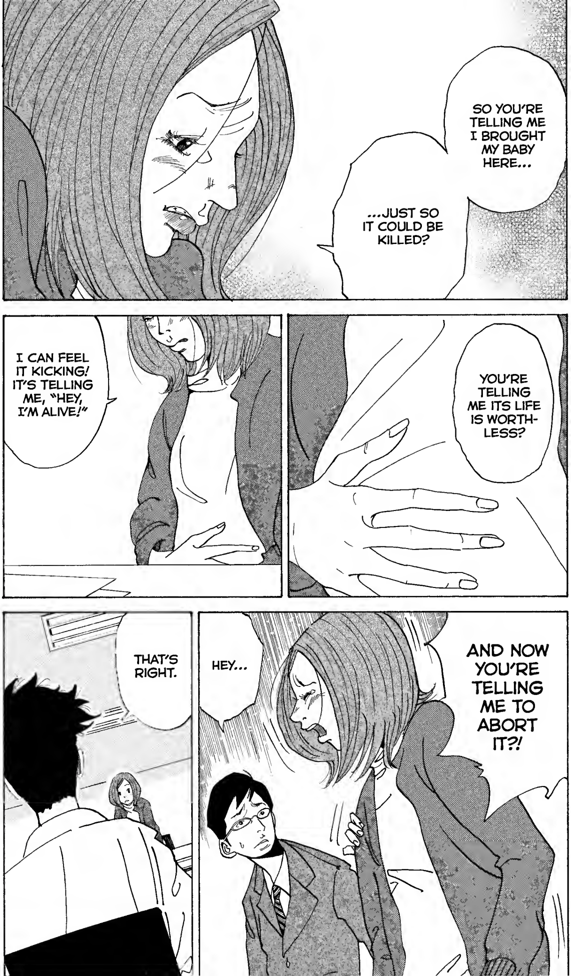

IT'S A SUBSET OF MCD...OR, "MALFORMATIONS OF CORTICAL DEVELOPMENT."
IN LAYMAN'S TERMS,
THE FETUS IS FULLY DEVELOPED FROM THE SPINE TO WHERE THE BRAIN STEM MEETS THE OCCIPITAL LOBE.
...
BUT ONE OF THE HEMISPHERES OF ITS BRAIN NEVER DEVELOPED.
PUT ANOTHER WAY...THE FETUS HAS NO BRAIN.
BUT IT'S BEEN KICKING FOR THE PAST THREE DAYS!
IT KICKED JUST A MINUTE AGO!
MY BABY'S ALIVE!
...
IT'S ALIVE.

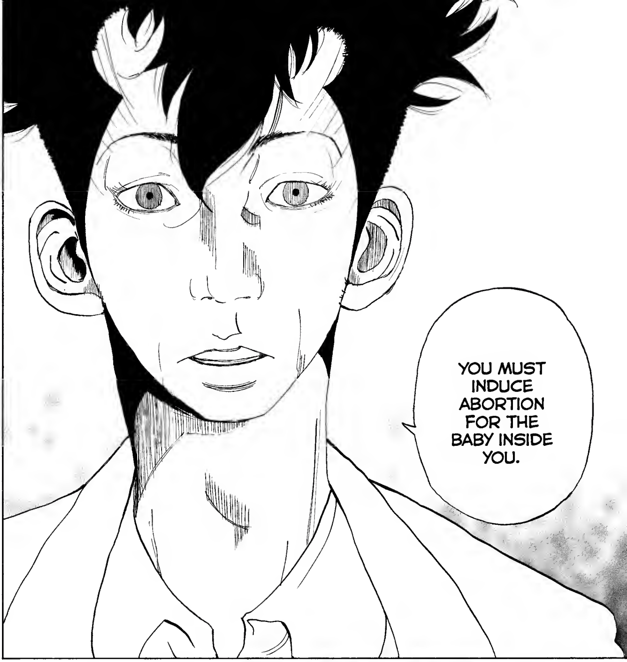

YES, KAWAMURA-SAN. AS LONG AS IT'S IN THE WOMB.
BUT IT WON'T BE ABLE TO SURVIVE THE OUTSIDE WORLD.
...
BUT...BUT YOU CAN HELP IT, CAN'T YOU?
RIGHT...? CAN'T YOU... DO SOMETHING, DOCTOR?
KAWAMURA-SAN, I'M AFRAID...

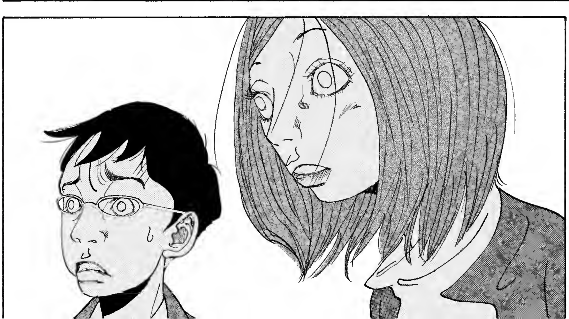

...THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO.
...
Hello? You all done with your checkup?
HELLO, DEAR.
UM... OUR BABY... IT'S...
CLACK

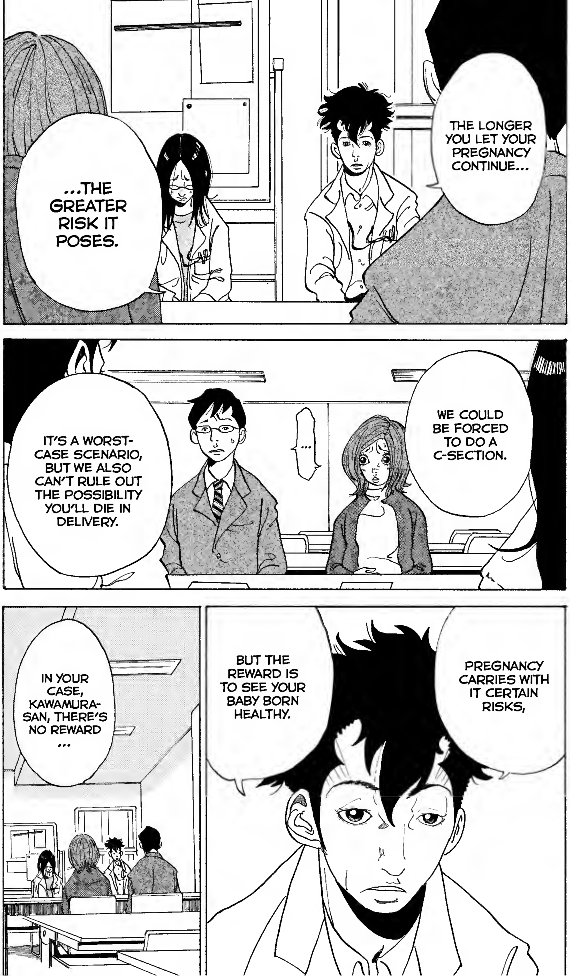

Hey! Hello?
What's wrong? Hey!!

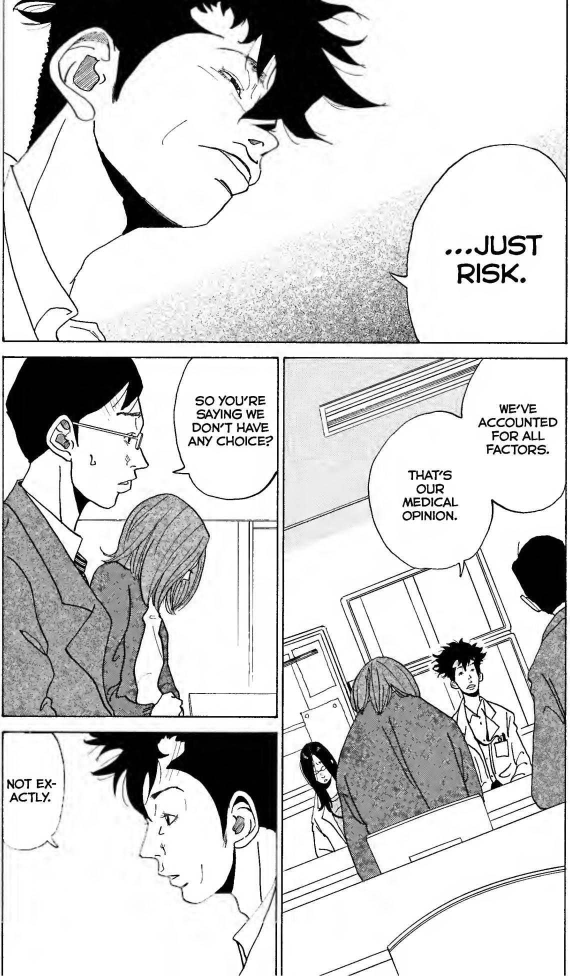

I TOOK A LOOK, TOO, JUST TO BE SURE...
...BUT I'M AFRAID I AGREE WITH DR. KOUNOTORI.
YOUR BABY HAS ANENCEPHALY.
THAT MEANS PART OF ITS HEAD NEVER FORMED PROPERLY.
IF YOU CARRY IT TO TERM, THE HOLE IN ITS CRANIUM PRESENTS A RISK OF INJURY TO THE MOTHER.
...
FOR HER SAKE, I THINK IT'S BEST WE TERMINATE THE PREGNANCY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE...
YOU'RE SAYING WE SHOULD JUST GIVE UP?
...I'M SORRY. IT'S FOR THE BEST.

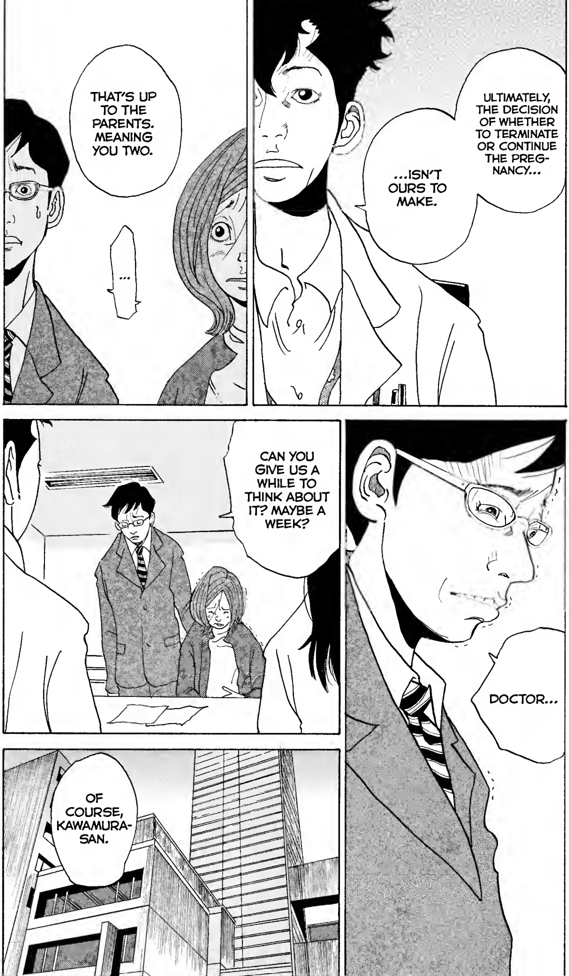

SO YOU'RE TELLING ME I BROUGHT MY BABY HERE...
...JUST SO IT COULD BE KILLED?
YOU'RE TELLING ME ITS LIFE IS WORTHLESS?
I CAN FEEL IT KICKING! IT'S TELLING ME, "HEY, I'M ALIVE!"
AND NOW YOU'RE TELLING ME TO ABORT IT?!
HEY...
THAT'S RIGHT.

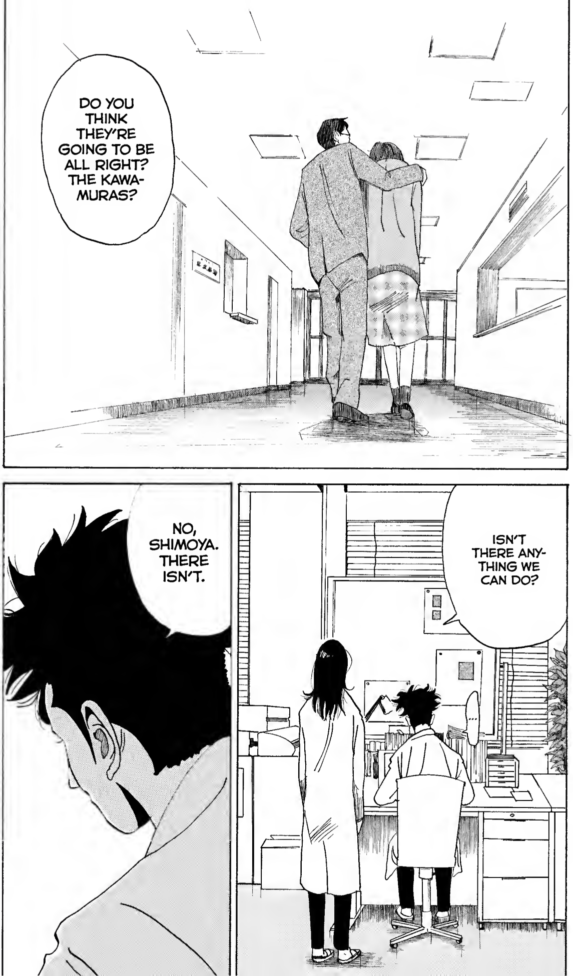

YOU MUST INDUCE ABORTION FOR THE BABY INSIDE YOU.

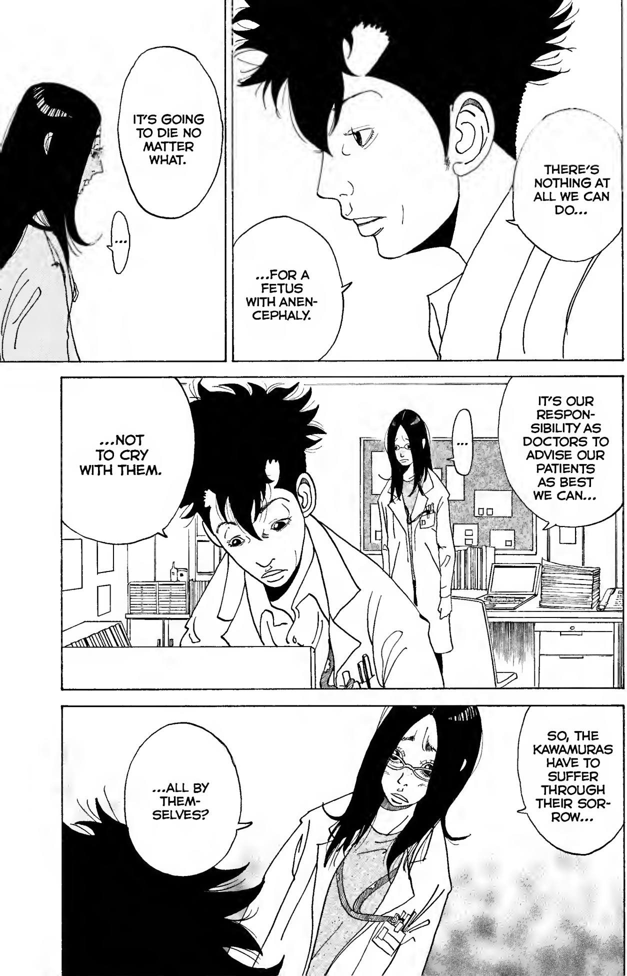


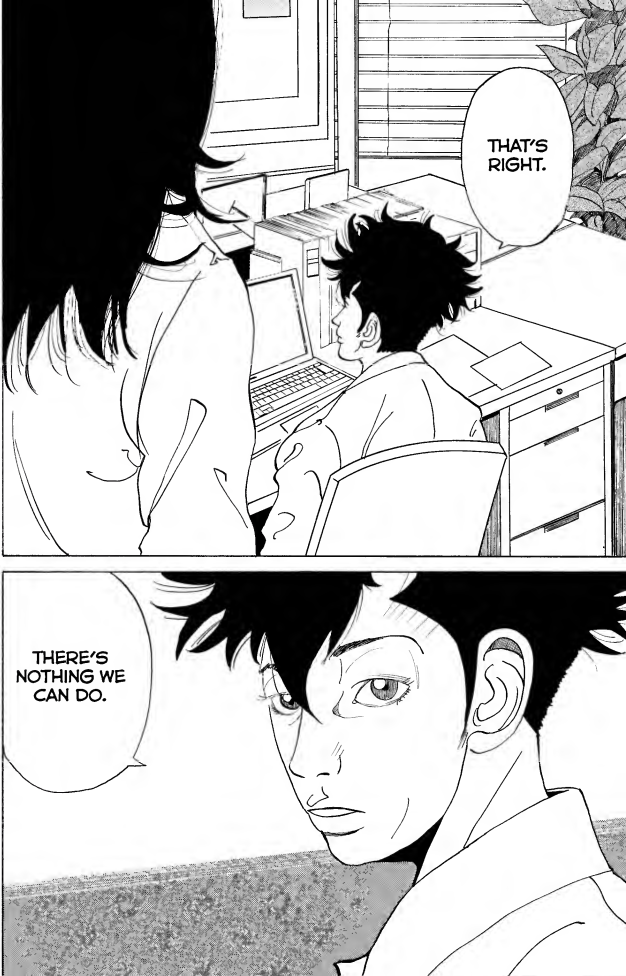

THE LONGER YOU LET YOUR PREGNANCY CONTINUE...
...THE GREATER RISK IT POSES.
WE COULD BE FORCED TO DO A C-SECTION.
...
IT'S A WORST-CASE SCENARIO, BUT WE ALSO CAN'T RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY YOU'LL DIE IN DELIVERY.
PREGNANCY CARRIES WITH IT CERTAIN RISKS,
BUT THE REWARD IS TO SEE YOUR BABY BORN HEALTHY.
IN YOUR CASE, KAWAMURA-SAN, THERE'S NO REWARD ...


...JUST RISK.
WE'VE ACCOUNTED FOR ALL FACTORS.
THAT'S OUR MEDICAL OPINION.
SO YOU'RE SAYING WE DON'T HAVE ANY CHOICE?
NOT EXACTLY.

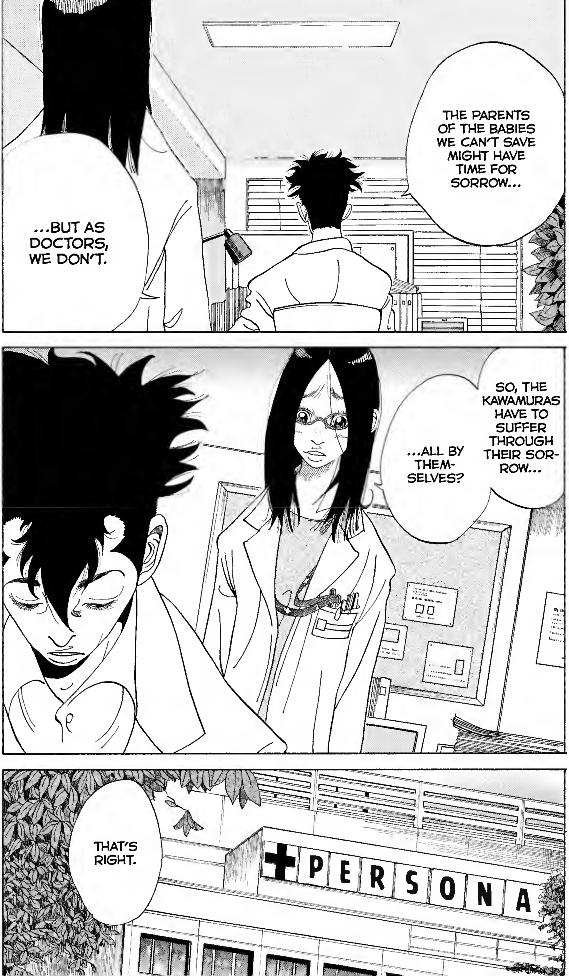

ULTIMATELY, THE DECISION OF WHETHER TO TERMINATE OR CONTINUE THE PREGNANCY...
...ISN'T OURS TO MAKE.
THAT'S UP TO THE PARENTS. MEANING YOU TWO.
...
DOCTOR...
CAN YOU GIVE US A WHILE TO THINK ABOUT IT? MAYBE A WEEK?
OF COURSE, KAWAMURA-SAN.

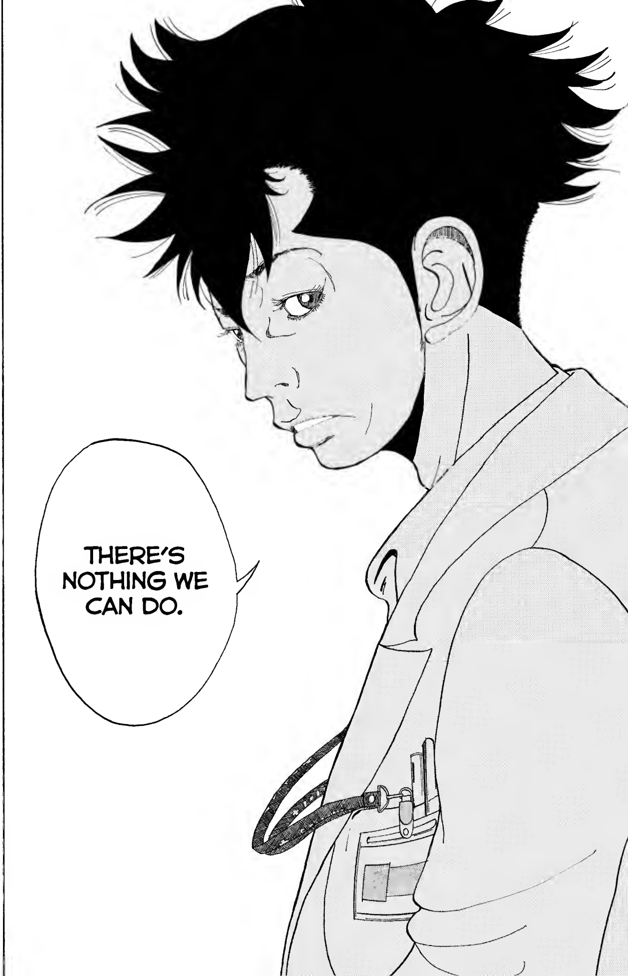

DO YOU THINK THEY'RE GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT? THE KAWAMURAS?
ISN'T THERE ANYTHING WE CAN DO?
...
NO, SHIMOYA. THERE ISN'T.

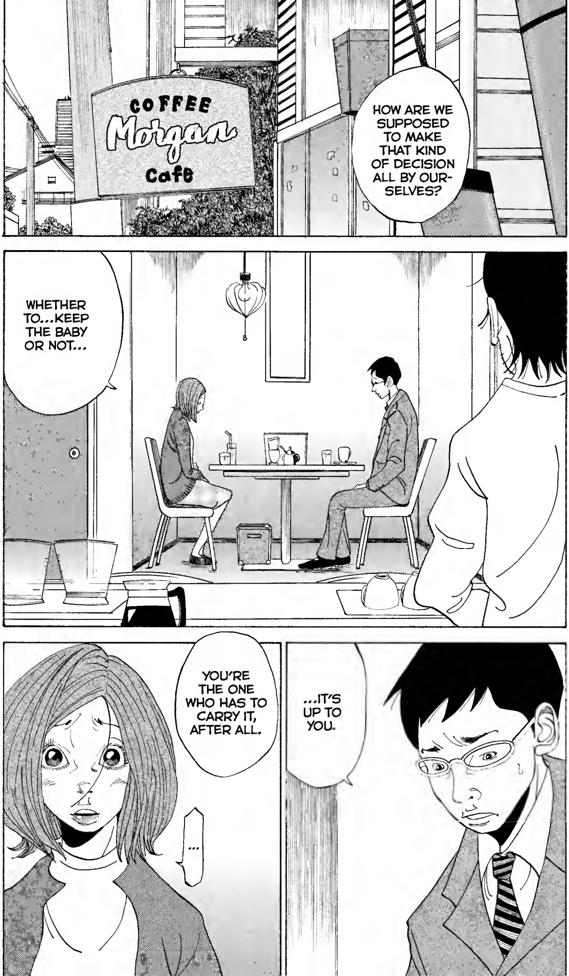

THERE'S NOTHING AT ALL WE CAN DO...
...FOR A FETUS WITH ANENCEPHALY.
IT'S GOING TO DIE NO MATTER WHAT.
...
IT'S OUR RESPONSIBILITY AS DOCTORS TO ADVISE OUR PATIENTS AS BEST WE CAN...
...
...NOT TO CRY WITH THEM.
SO, THE KAWAMURAS HAVE TO SUFFER THROUGH THEIR SORROW...
...ALL BY THEMSELVES?

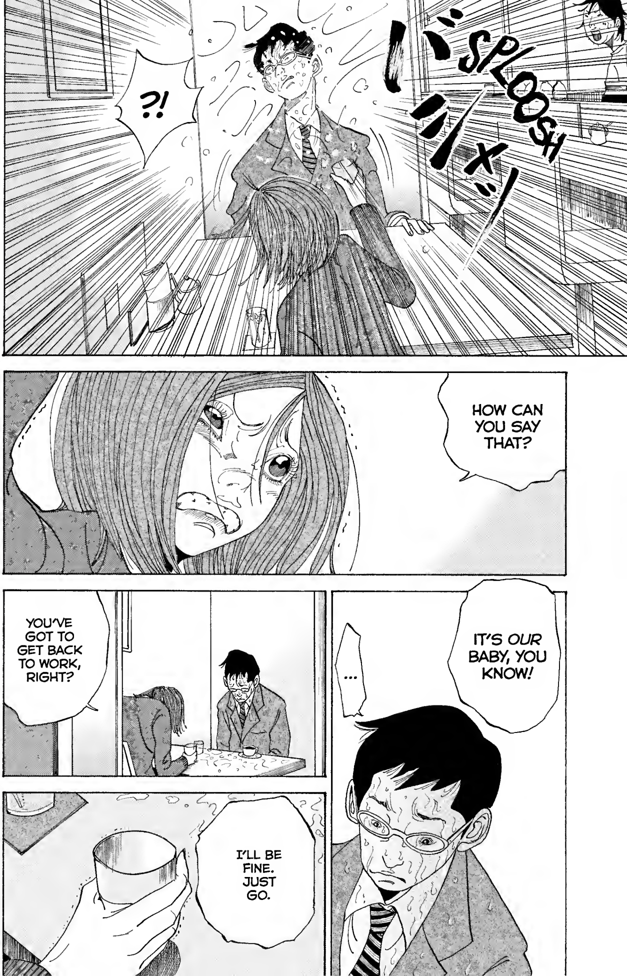

THAT'S RIGHT.
THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO.

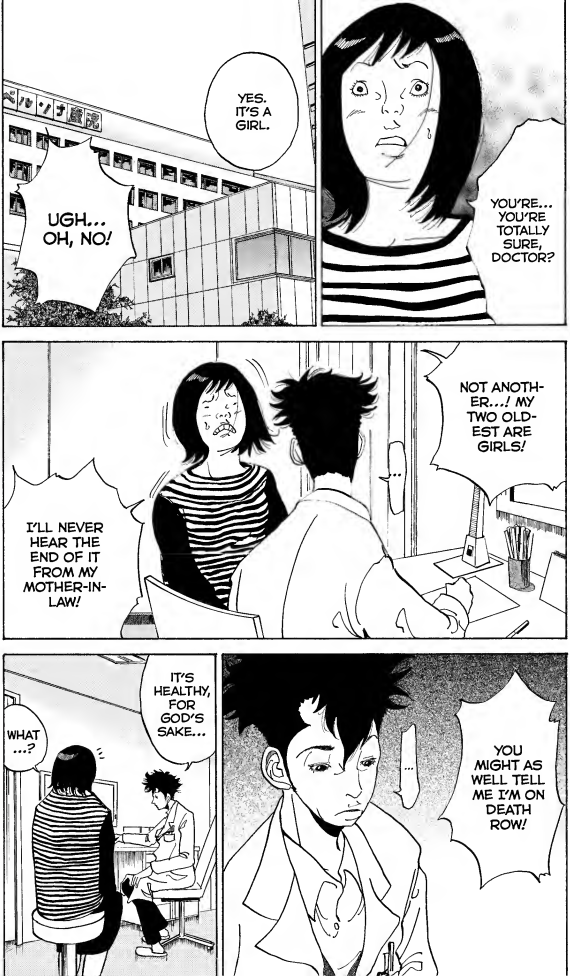
ANENCEPHALY (1) / END

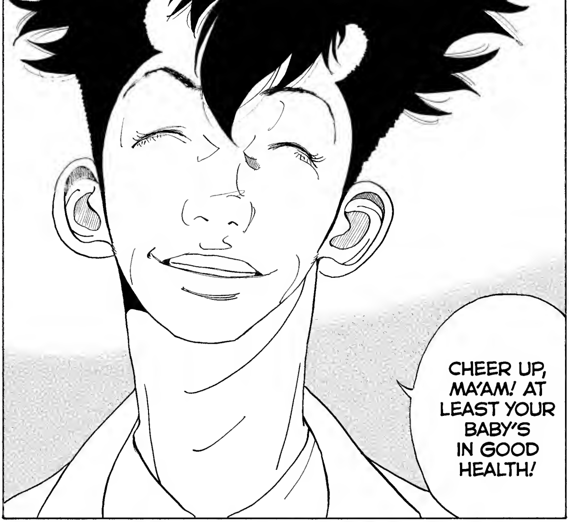

THE PARENTS OF THE BABIES WE CAN'T SAVE MIGHT HAVE TIME FOR SORROW...
...BUT AS DOCTORS, WE DON'T.
SO, THE KAWAMURAS HAVE TO SUFFER THROUGH THEIR SORROW...
...ALL BY THEMSELVES?
THAT'S RIGHT.
PERSONA

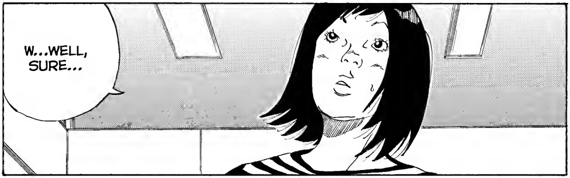

THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO.

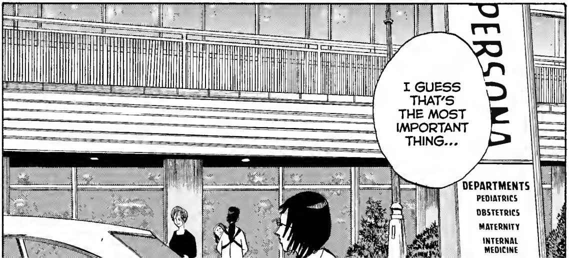

COFFEE
Morgan
Café
HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO MAKE THAT KIND OF DECISION ALL BY OURSELVES?
WHETHER TO...KEEP THE BABY OR NOT...
...IT'S UP TO YOU.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO HAS TO CARRY IT, AFTER ALL.
...

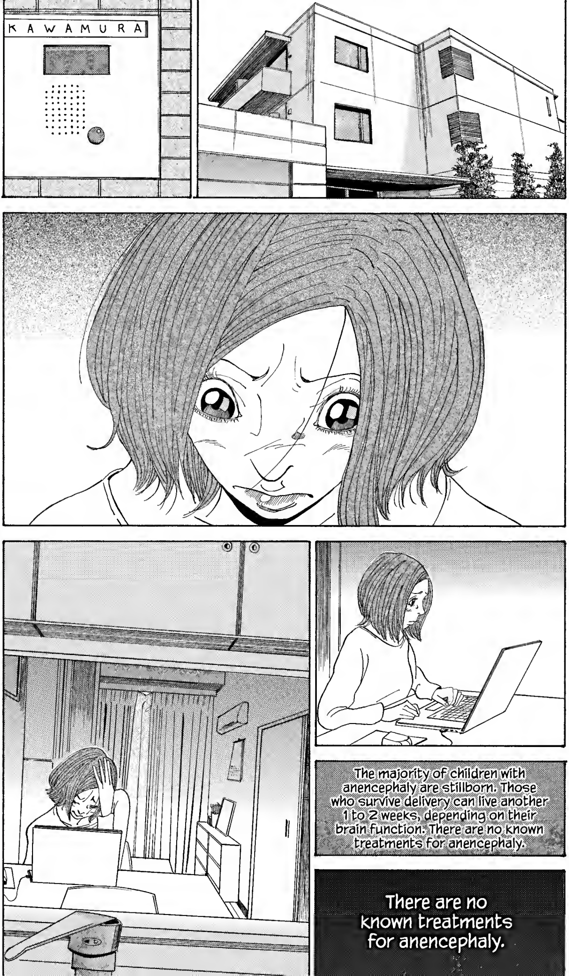

バシャッ
SPLOOSH
?!
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?
IT'S *OUR* BABY, YOU KNOW!
...
YOU'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO WORK, RIGHT?
I'LL BE FINE. JUST GO.

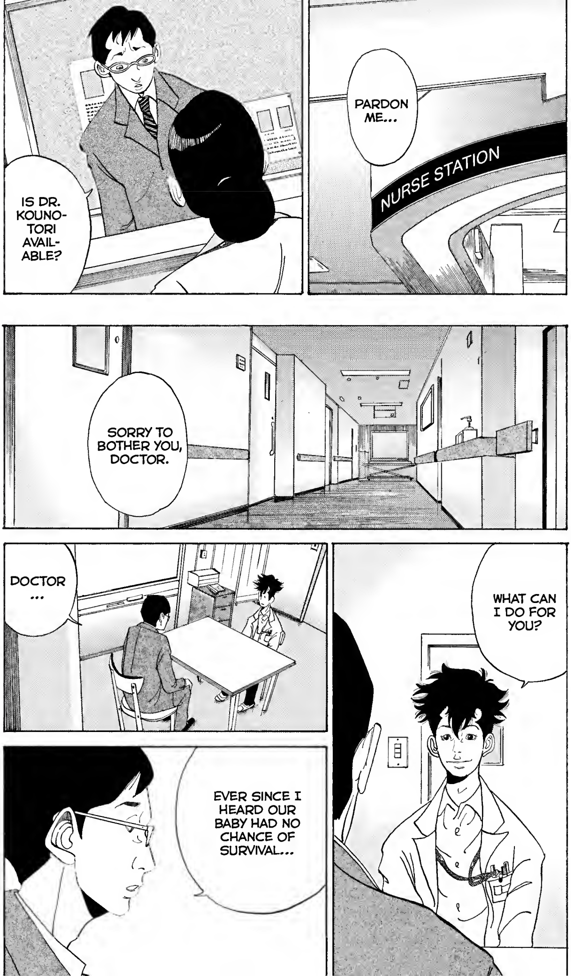

YOU'RE... YOU'RE TOTALLY SURE, DOCTOR?
ベルソナ産院
YES. IT'S A GIRL.
UGH... OH, NO!
NOT ANOTHER...! MY TWO OLDEST ARE GIRLS!
...
I'LL NEVER HEAR THE END OF IT FROM MY MOTHER-IN-LAW!
YOU MIGHT AS WELL TELL ME I'M ON DEATH ROW!
...
IT'S HEALTHY, FOR GOD'S SAKE...
WHAT...?

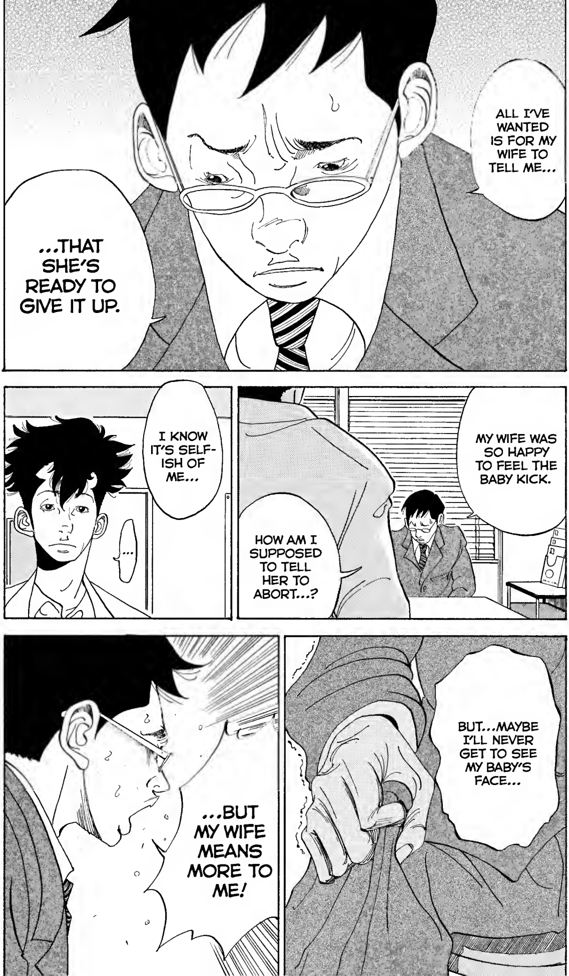

CHEER UP, MA'AM! AT LEAST YOUR BABY'S IN GOOD HEALTH!

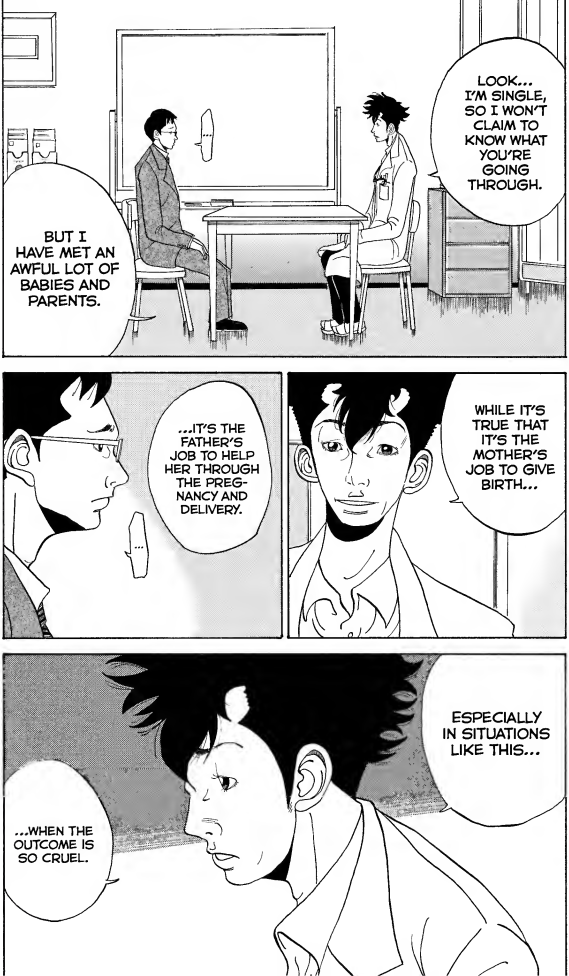

W...WELL, SURE...

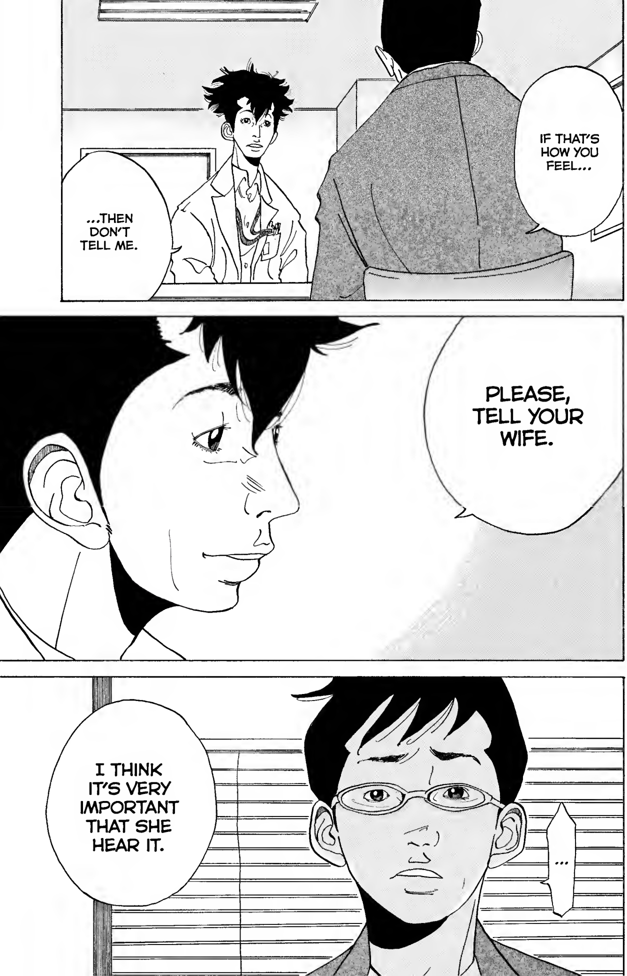

PERSONA
I GUESS THAT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT THING...
DEPARTMENTS
PEDIATRICS
OBSTETRICS
MATERNITY
INTERNAL MEDICINE

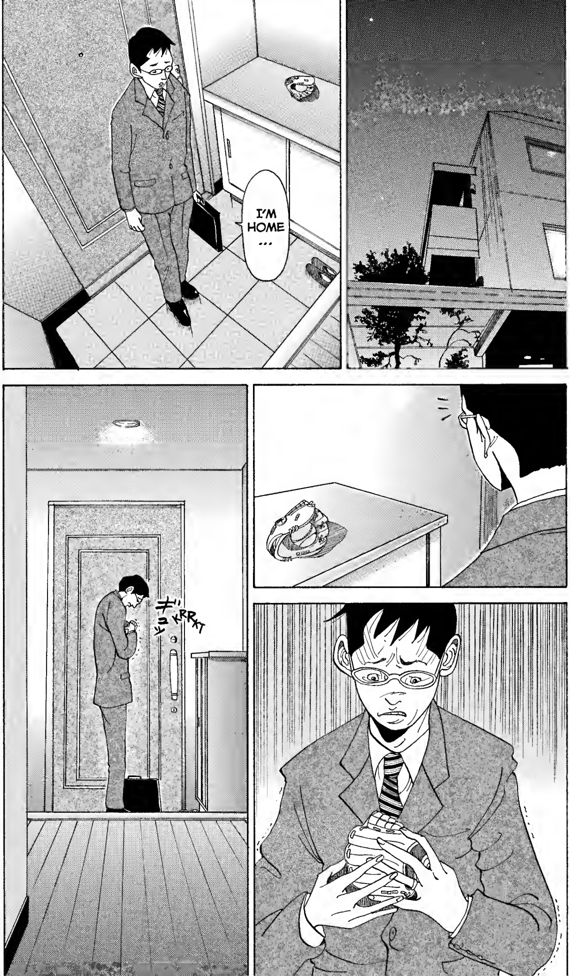

KAWAMURA
The majority of children with anencephaly are stillborn. Those who survive delivery can live another 1 to 2 weeks, depending on their brain function. There are no known treatments for anencephaly.
There are no known treatments for anencephaly.

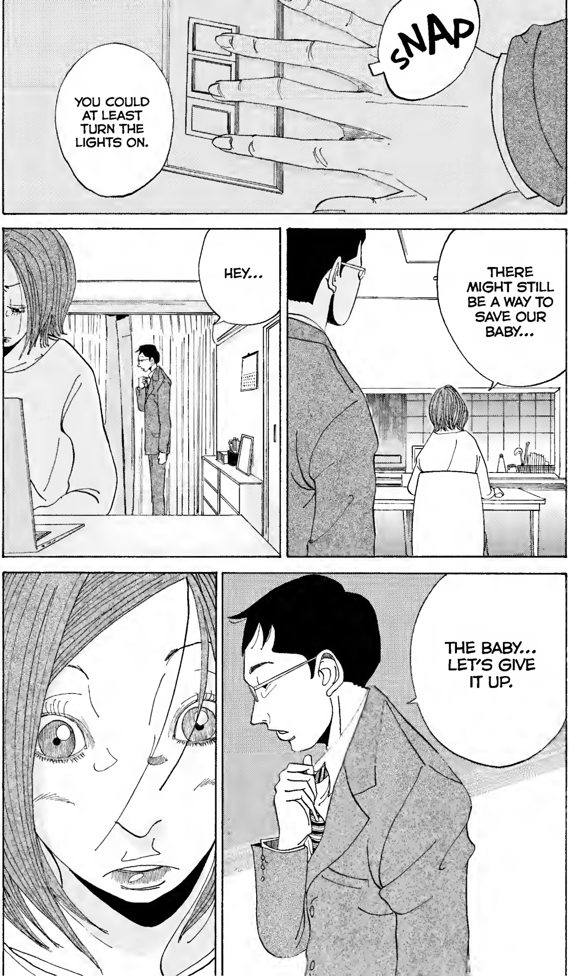

PARDON ME...
NURSE STATION
IS DR. KOUNOTORI AVAILABLE?
SORRY TO BOTHER YOU, DOCTOR.
WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
DOCTOR ...
EVER SINCE I HEARD OUR BABY HAD NO CHANCE OF SURVIVAL...

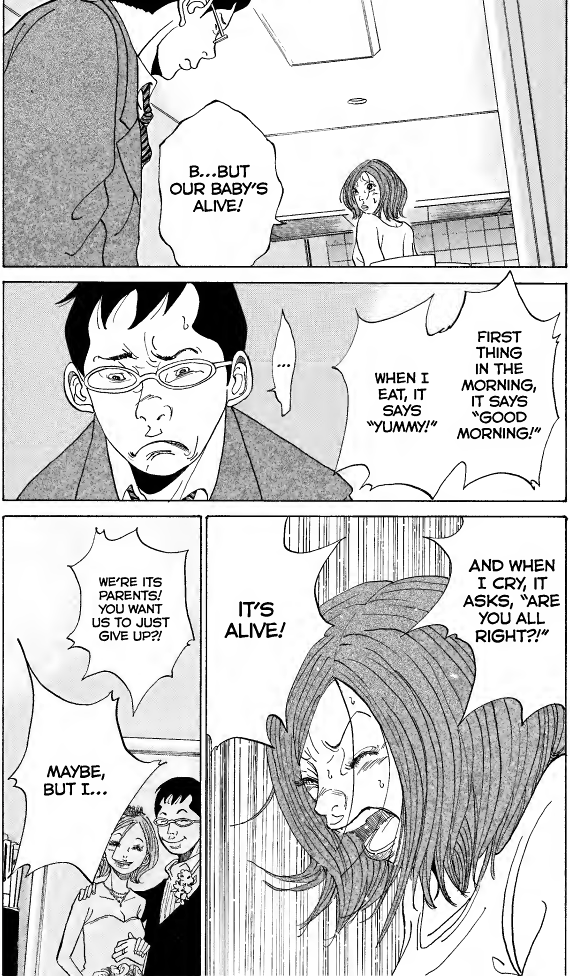

ALL I'VE WANTED IS FOR MY WIFE TO TELL ME...
...THAT SHE'S READY TO GIVE IT UP.
MY WIFE WAS SO HAPPY TO FEEL THE BABY KICK.
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO TELL HER TO ABORT...?
I KNOW IT'S SELFISH OF ME...
...
BUT...MAYBE I'LL NEVER GET TO SEE MY BABY'S FACE...
...BUT MY WIFE MEANS MORE TO ME!

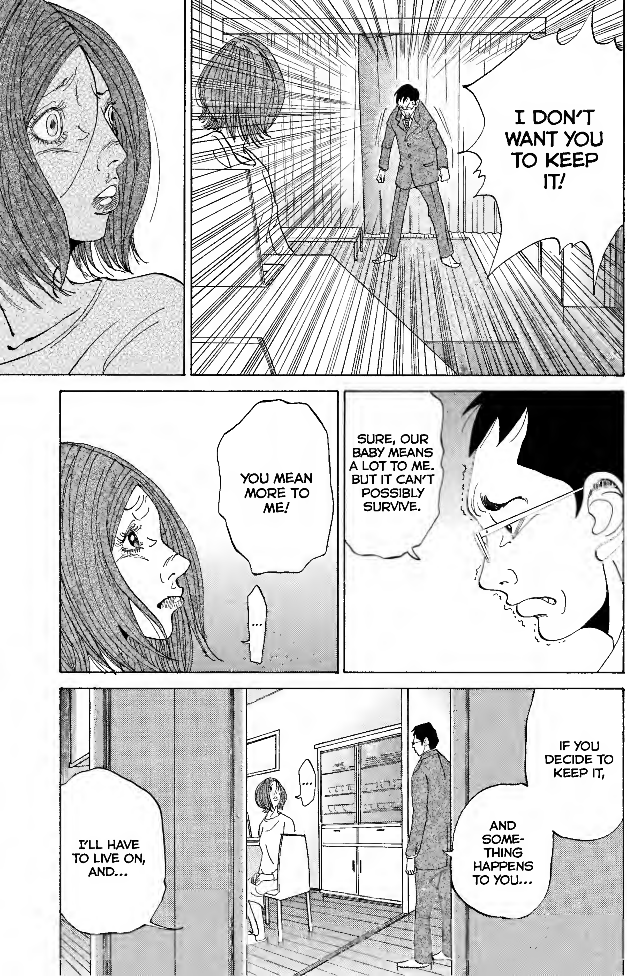

LOOK... I'M SINGLE, SO I WON'T CLAIM TO KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GOING THROUGH.
...
BUT I HAVE MET AN AWFUL LOT OF BABIES AND PARENTS.
WHILE IT'S TRUE THAT IT'S THE MOTHER'S JOB TO GIVE BIRTH...
...IT'S THE FATHER'S JOB TO HELP HER THROUGH THE PREGNANCY AND DELIVERY.
...
ESPECIALLY IN SITUATIONS LIKE THIS...
...WHEN THE OUTCOME IS SO CRUEL.

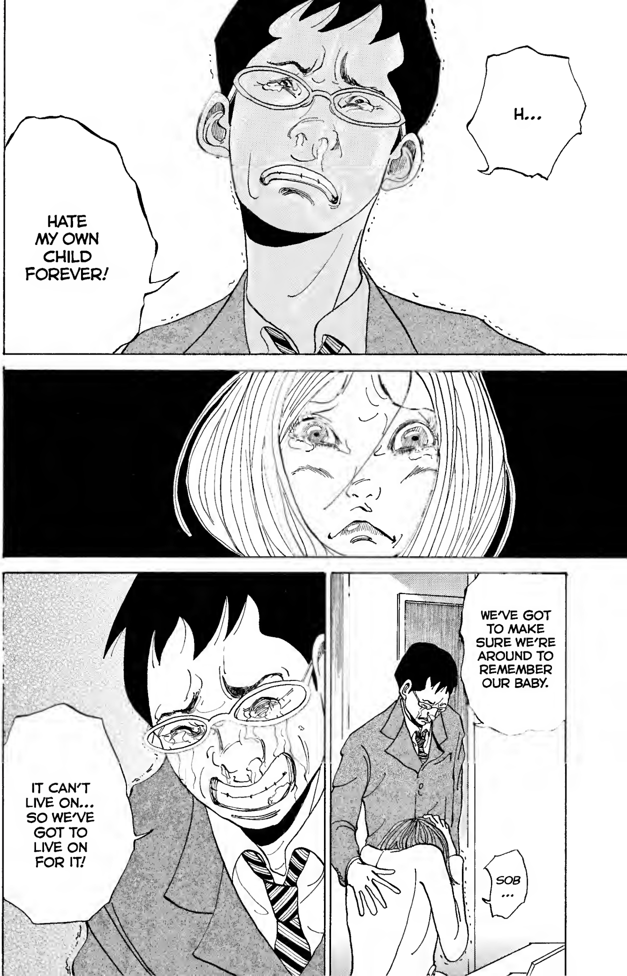

IF THAT'S HOW YOU FEEL...
...THEN DON'T TELL ME.
PLEASE, TELL YOUR WIFE.
...
I THINK IT'S VERY IMPORTANT THAT SHE HEAR IT.

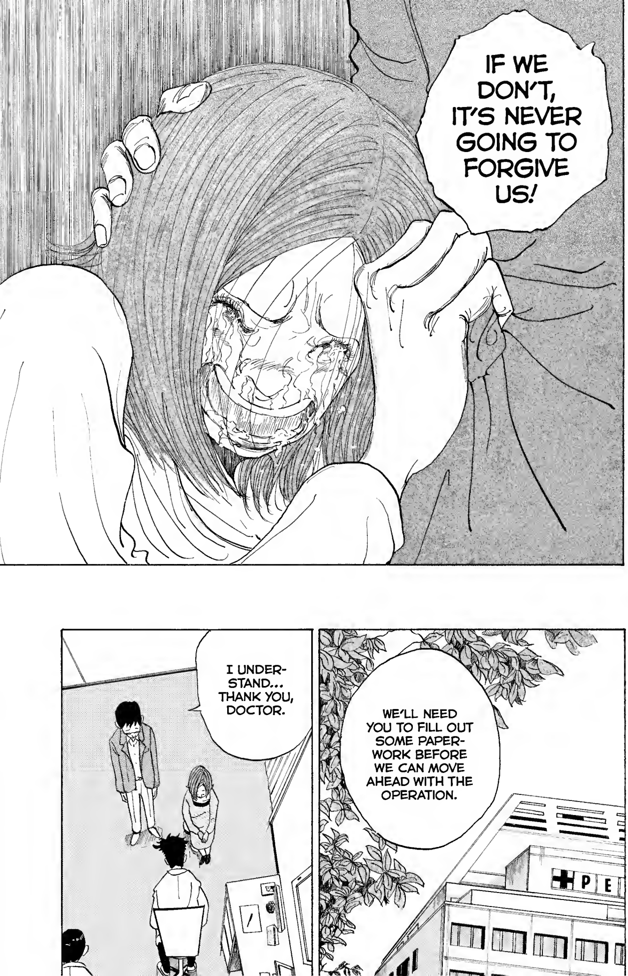

I'M HOME ...
ギュッ
KRRKT

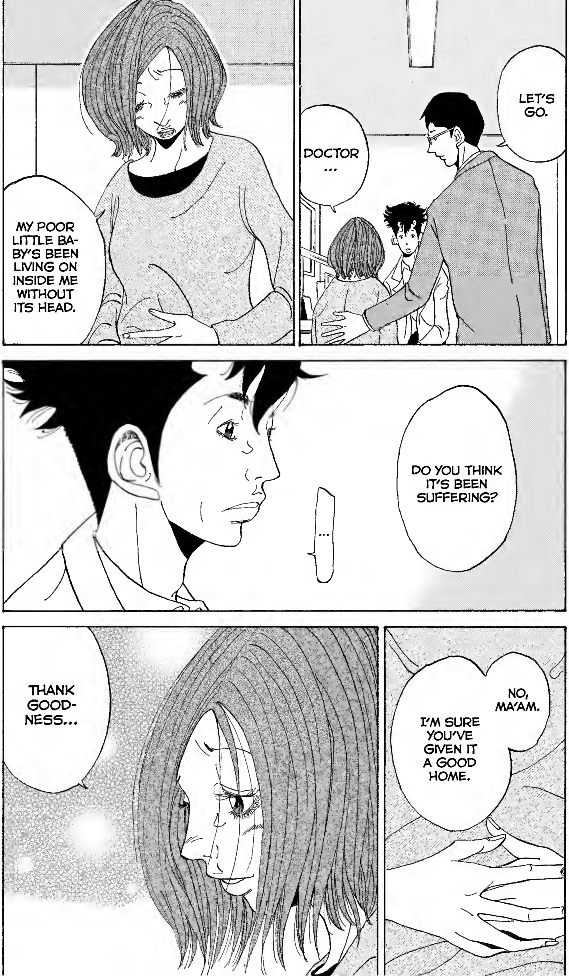

SNAP
YOU COULD AT LEAST TURN THE LIGHTS ON.
THERE MIGHT STILL BE A WAY TO SAVE OUR BABY...
HEY...
THE BABY... LET'S GIVE IT UP.

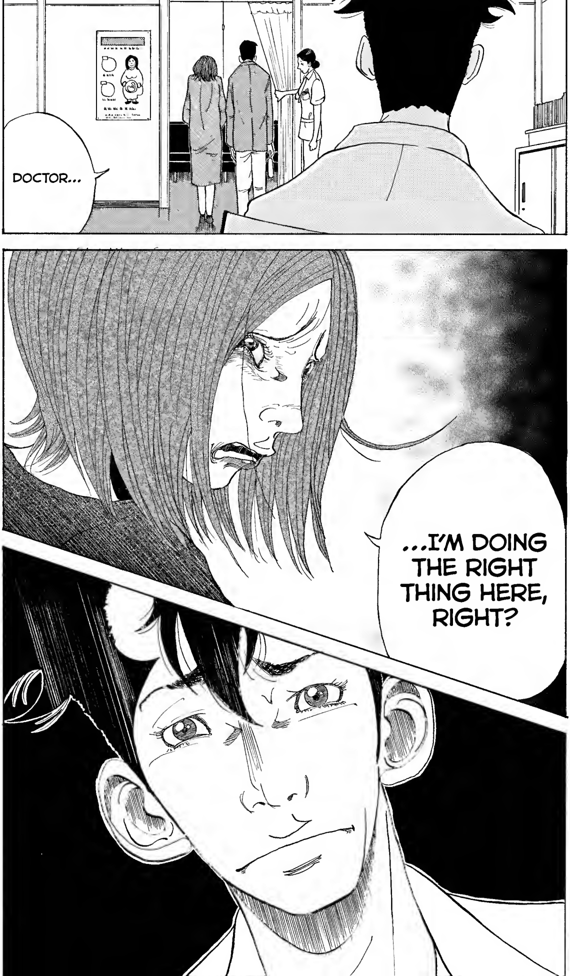

B...BUT OUR BABY'S ALIVE!
FIRST THING IN THE MORNING, IT SAYS "GOOD MORNING!"
WHEN I EAT, IT SAYS "YUMMY!"
...
AND WHEN I CRY, IT ASKS, "ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!"
IT'S ALIVE!
WE'RE ITS PARENTS! YOU WANT US TO JUST GIVE UP?!
MAYBE, BUT I...

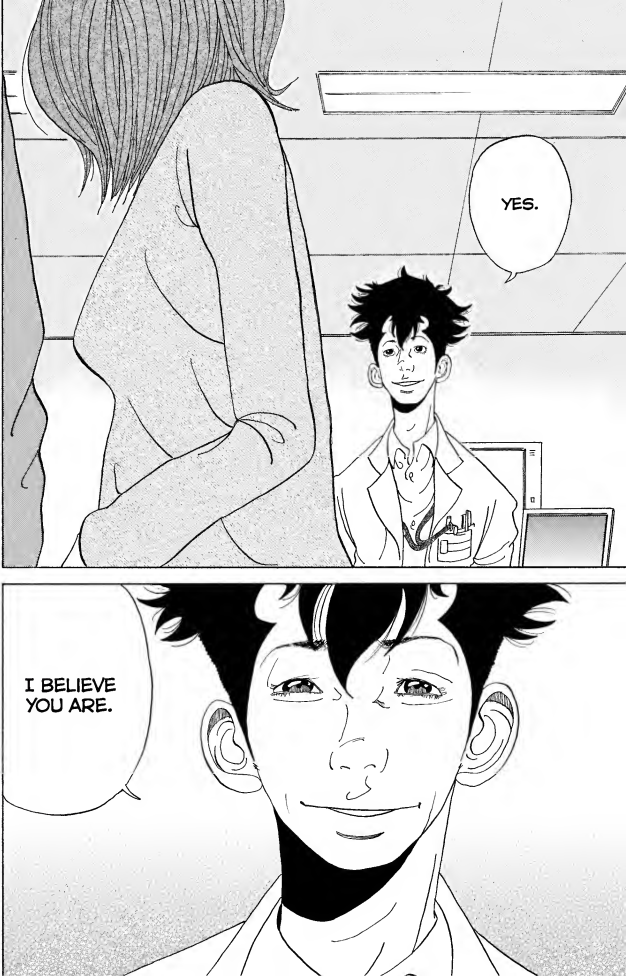

I DON'T WANT YOU TO KEEP IT!
SURE, OUR BABY MEANS A LOT TO ME. BUT IT CAN'T POSSIBLY SURVIVE.
YOU MEAN MORE TO ME!
...
IF YOU DECIDE TO KEEP IT,
AND SOMETHING HAPPENS TO YOU...
...
I'LL HAVE TO LIVE ON, AND...


H...
HATE MY OWN CHILD FOREVER!
WE'VE GOT TO MAKE SURE WE'RE AROUND TO REMEMBER OUR BABY.
SOB...
IT CAN'T LIVE ON... SO WE'VE GOT TO LIVE ON FOR IT!

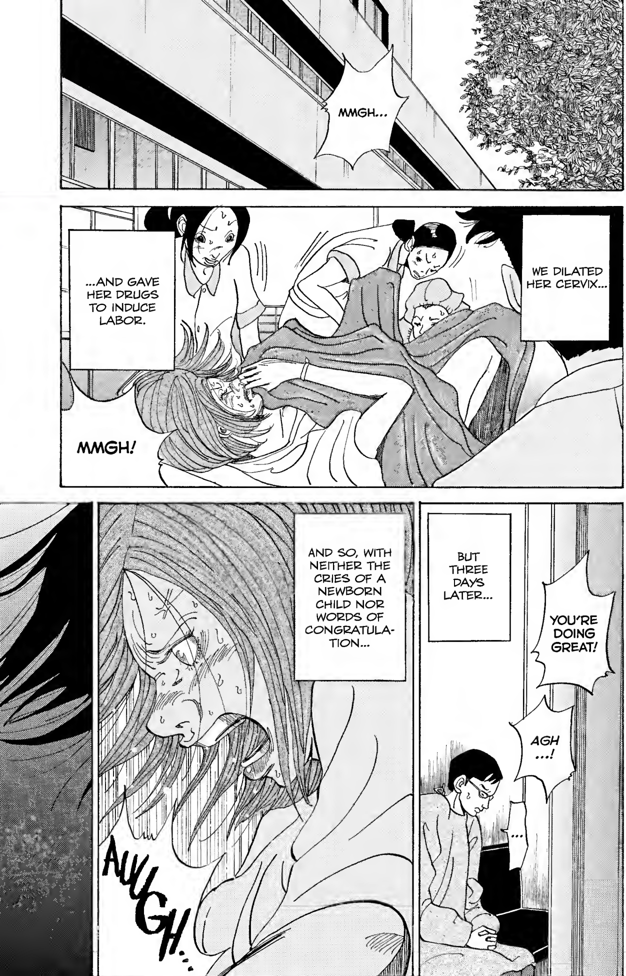

IF WE DON'T, IT'S NEVER GOING TO FORGIVE US!
WE'LL NEED YOU TO FILL OUT SOME PAPERWORK BEFORE WE CAN MOVE AHEAD WITH THE OPERATION.
PE
I UNDERSTAND... THANK YOU, DOCTOR.

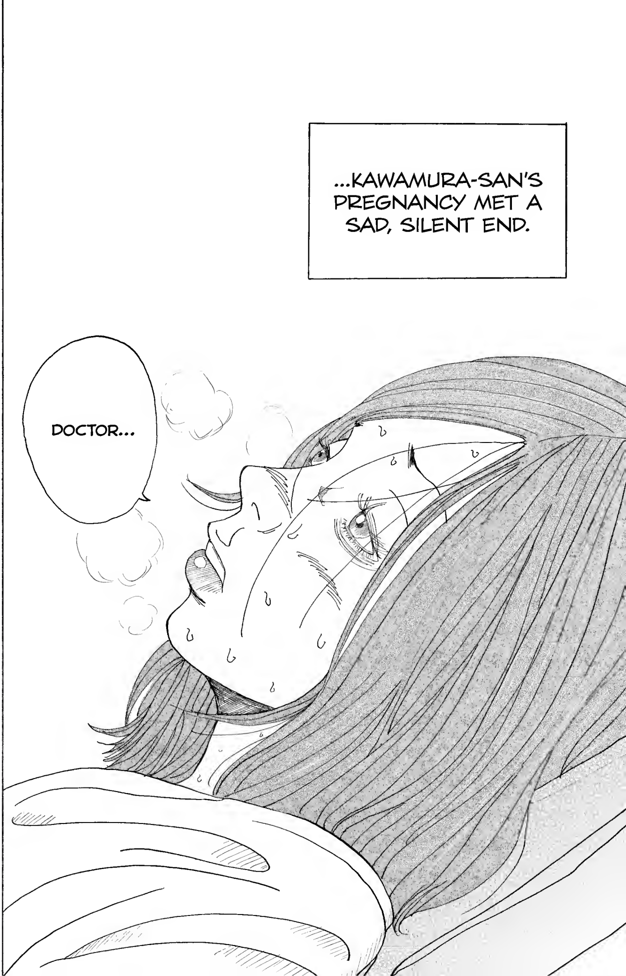

LET'S GO.
DOCTOR ...
MY POOR LITTLE BABY'S BEEN LIVING ON INSIDE ME WITHOUT ITS HEAD.
DO YOU THINK IT'S BEEN SUFFERING?
...
NO, MA'AM.
I'M SURE YOU'VE GIVEN IT A GOOD HOME.
THANK GOODNESS...

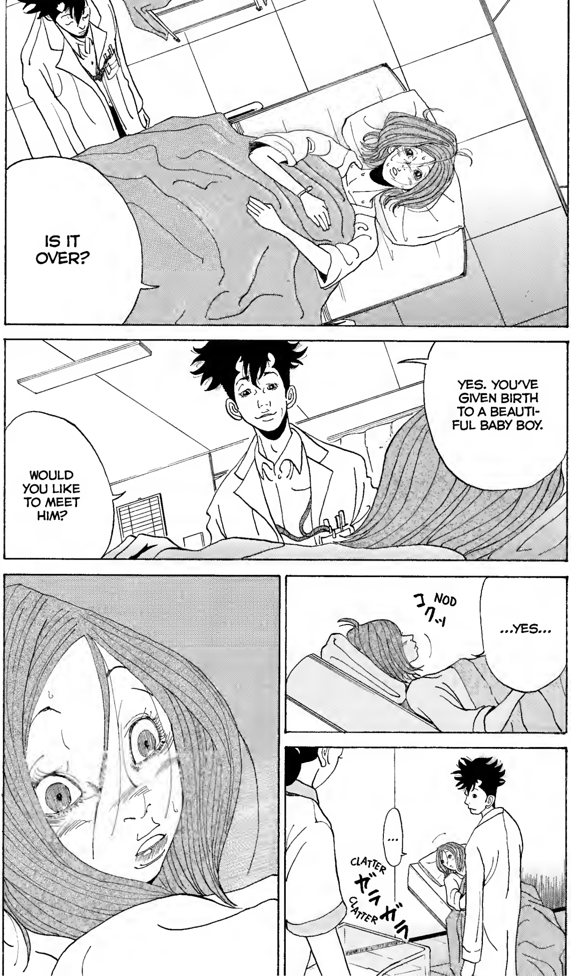

DOCTOR...
...I'M DOING THE RIGHT THING HERE, RIGHT?

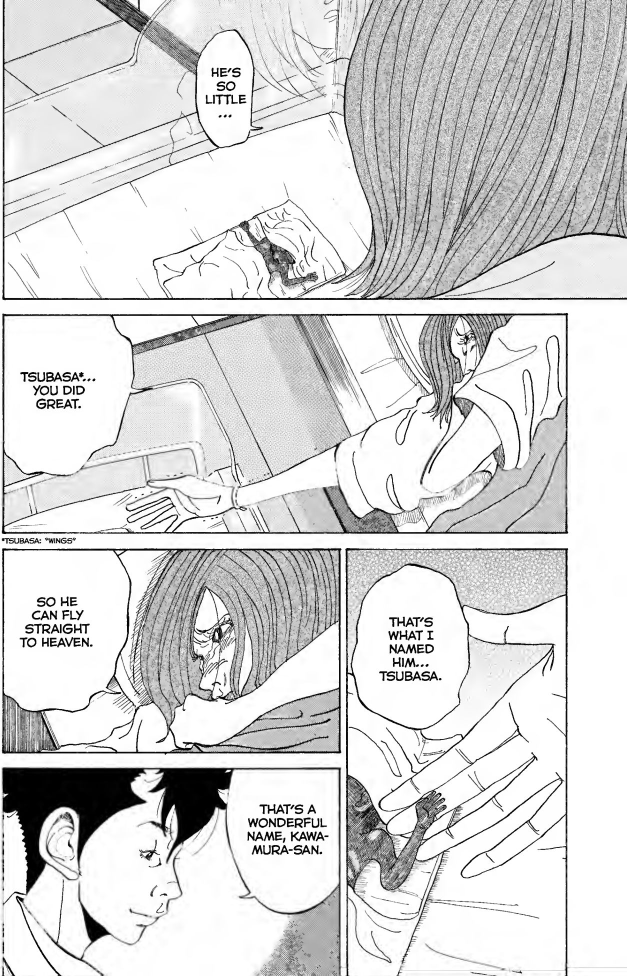

YES.
I BELIEVE YOU ARE.

ANENCEPHALY (2) / END

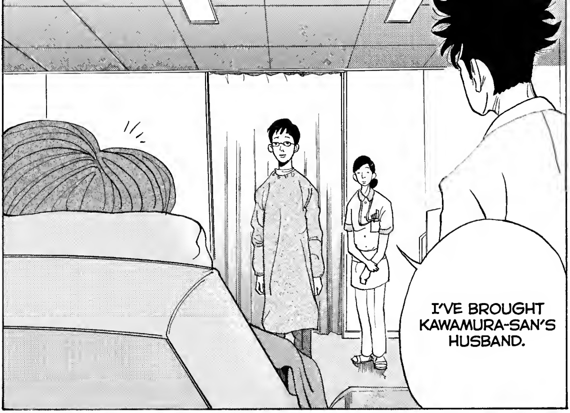

MMGH...
WE DILATED HER CERVIX...
...AND GAVE HER DRUGS TO INDUCE LABOR.
MMGH!
BUT THREE DAYS LATER...
YOU'RE DOING GREAT!
AGH...!
...
AND SO, WITH NEITHER THE CRIES OF A NEWBORN CHILD NOR WORDS OF CONGRATULATION...
AUUGH...

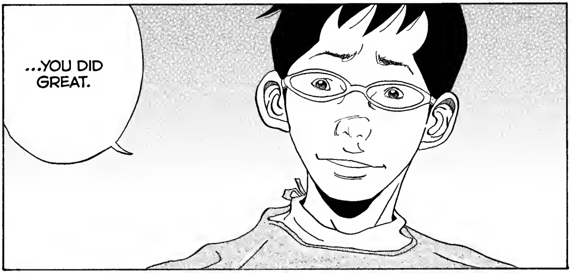

...KAWAMURA-SAN'S PREGNANCY MET A SAD, SILENT END.
DOCTOR...

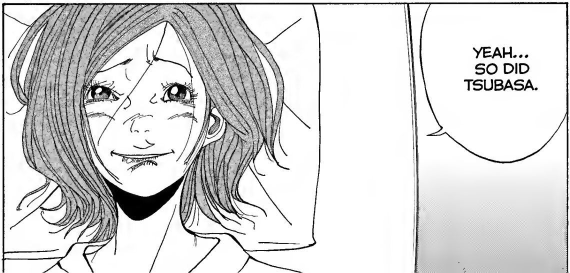

IS IT OVER?
YES. YOU'VE GIVEN BIRTH TO A BEAUTIFUL BABY BOY.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO MEET HIM?
...YES...
コクッ NOD
...
ガハ CLATTER
ガハ CLATTER

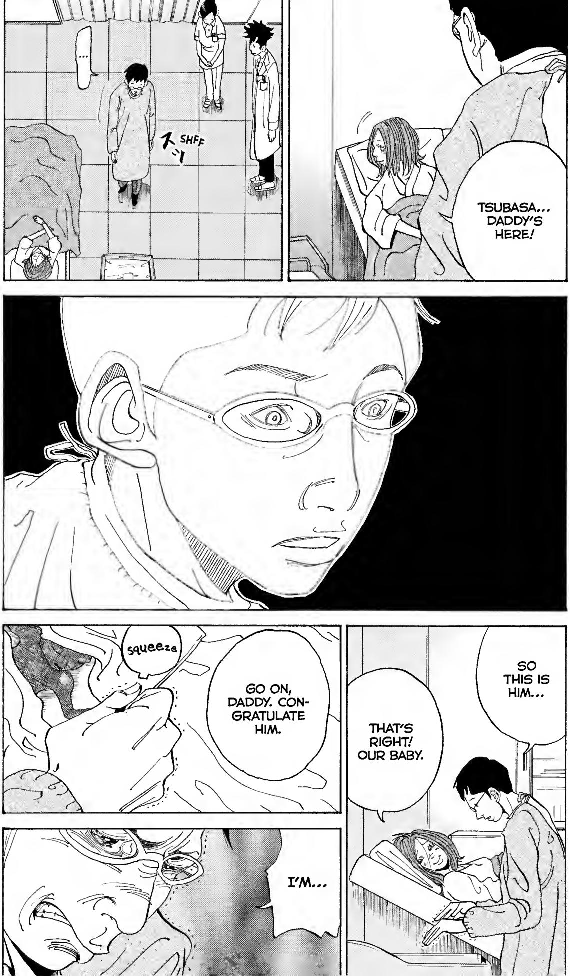

HE'S SO LITTLE ...
TSUBASA*... YOU DID GREAT.
THAT'S WHAT I NAMED HIM... TSUBASA.
SO HE CAN FLY STRAIGHT TO HEAVEN.
THAT'S A WONDERFUL NAME, KAWAMURA-SAN.

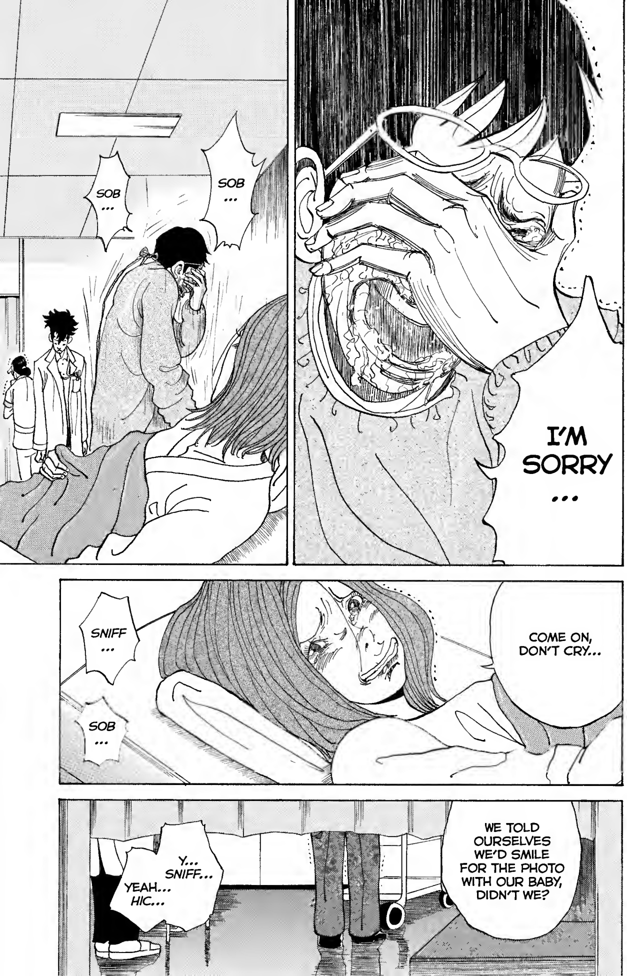
*TSUBASA: "WINGS"

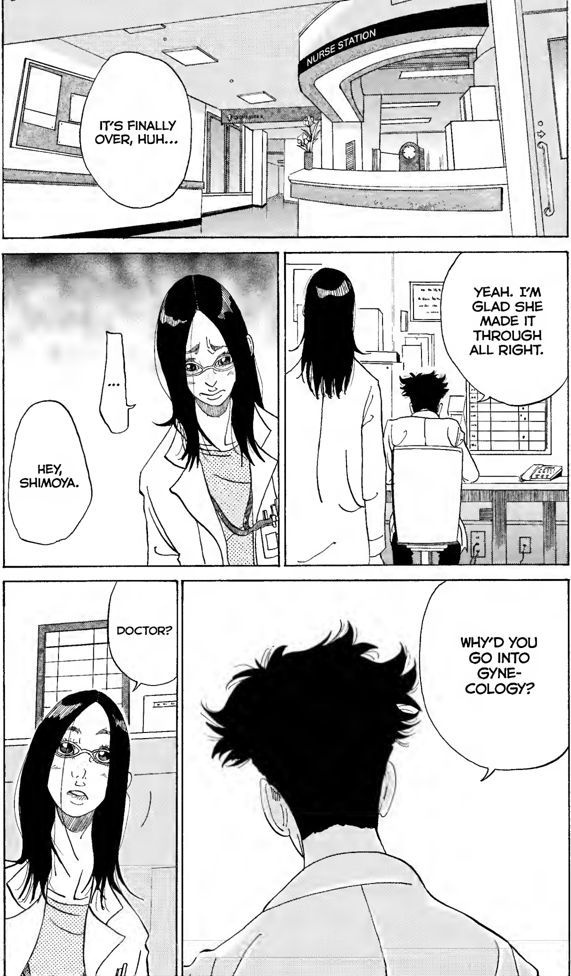

I'VE BROUGHT KAWAMURA-SAN'S HUSBAND.

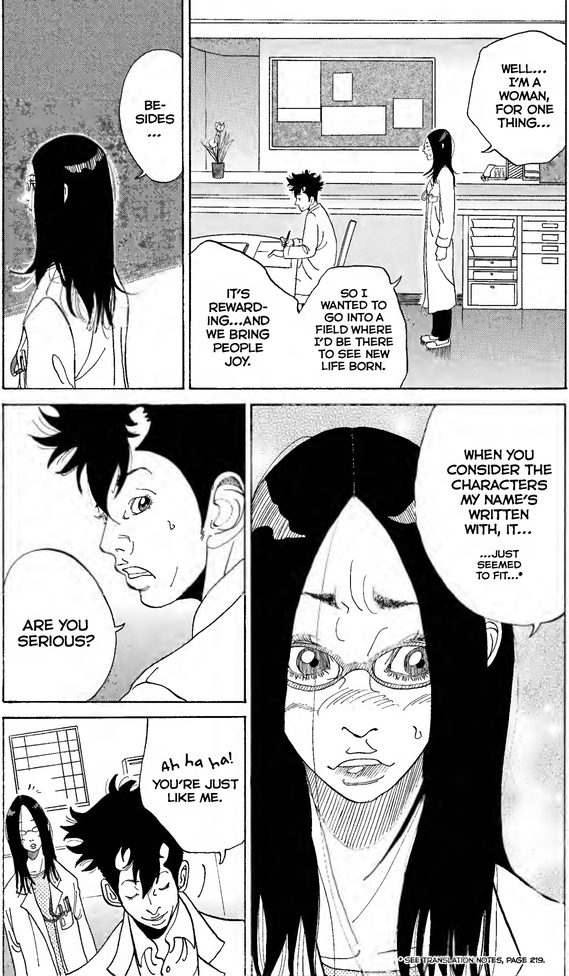

...YOU DID GREAT.


YEAH... SO DID TSUBASA.

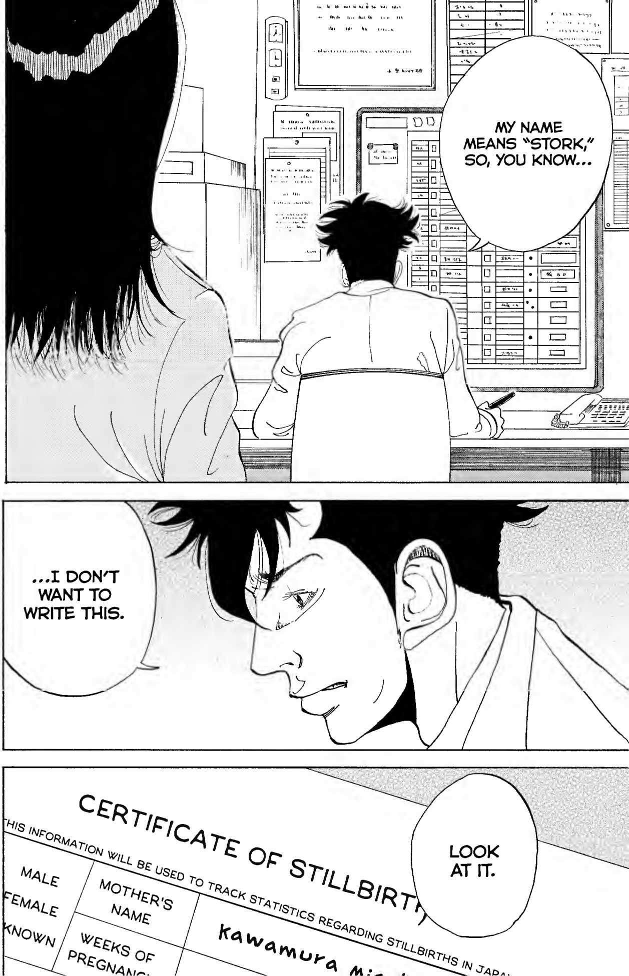

TSUBASA... DADDY'S HERE!
...
SHFF
SO THIS IS HIM...
THAT'S RIGHT! OUR BABY.
GO ON, DADDY. CONGRATULATE HIM.
squeeze
I'M...

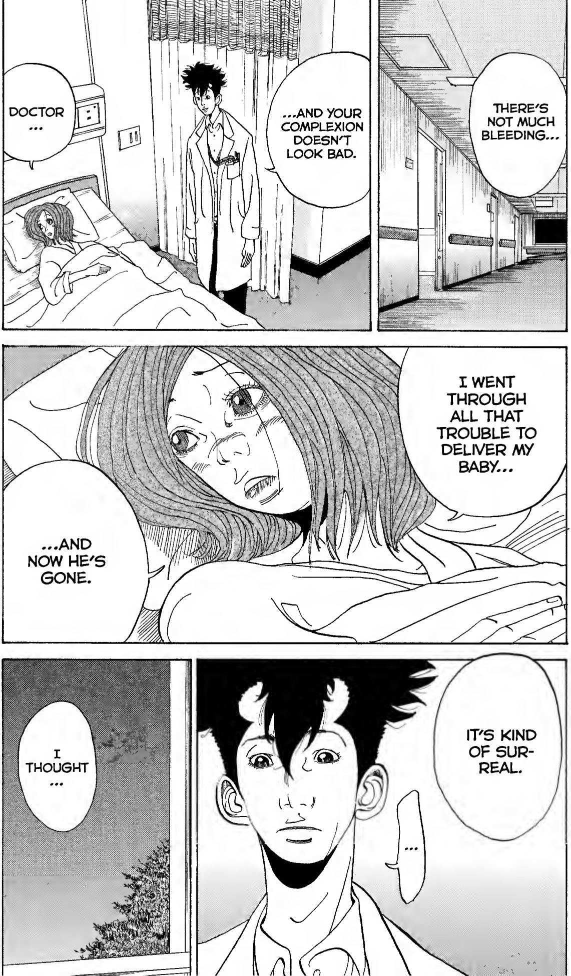

I'M SORRY...
SOB...
SOB...
COME ON, DON'T CRY...
SNIFF...
SOB...
WE TOLD OURSELVES WE'D SMILE FOR THE PHOTO WITH OUR BABY, DIDN'T WE?
Y... SNIFF...
YEAH... HIC...

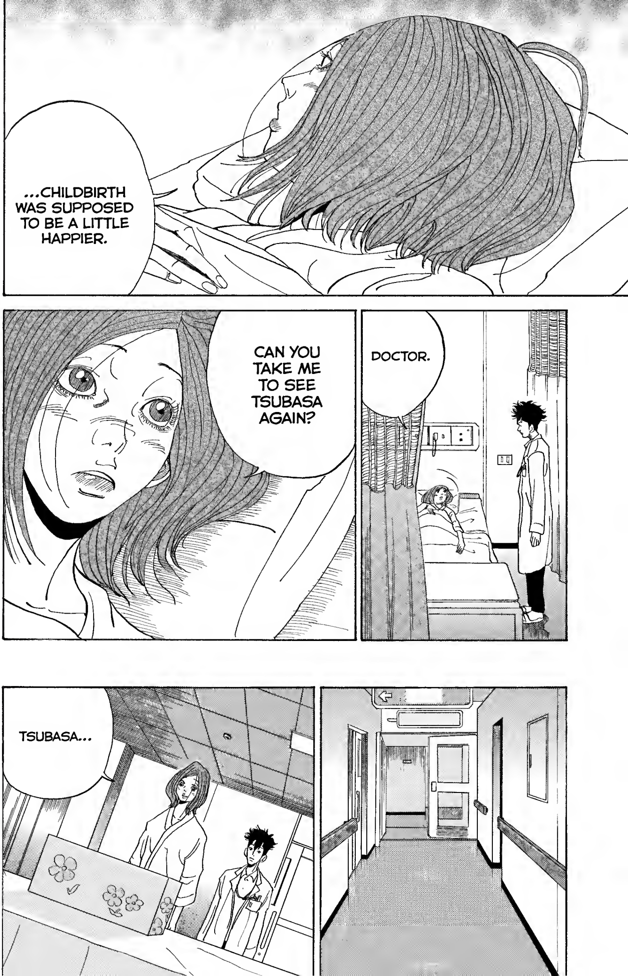

NURSE STATION
IT'S FINALLY OVER, HUH...
YEAH. I'M GLAD SHE MADE IT THROUGH ALL RIGHT.
...
HEY, SHIMOYA.
WHY'D YOU GO INTO GYNECOLOGY?
DOCTOR?

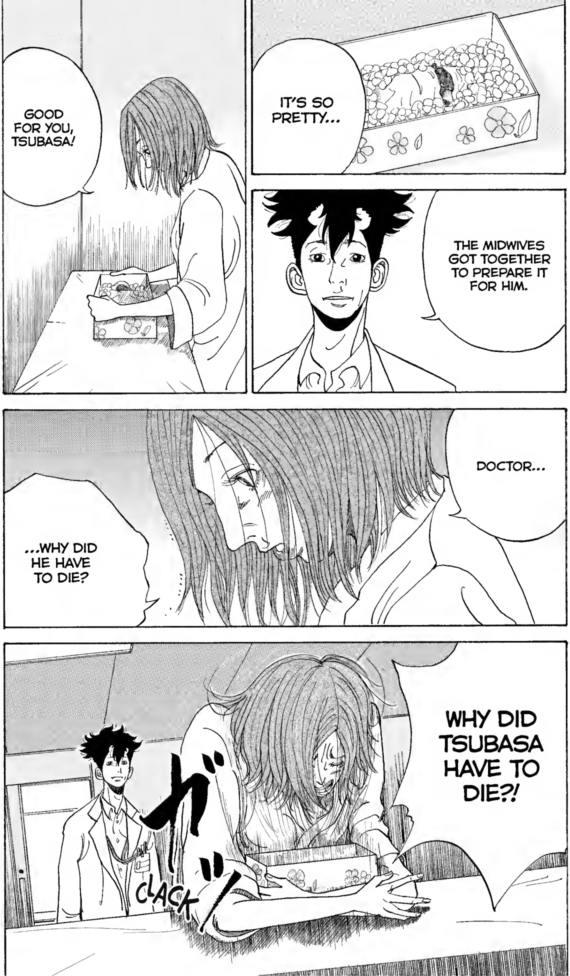

WELL... I'M A WOMAN, FOR ONE THING...
SO I WANTED TO GO INTO A FIELD WHERE I'D BE THERE TO SEE NEW LIFE BORN.
IT'S REWARDING...AND WE BRING PEOPLE JOY.
BESIDES...
WHEN YOU CONSIDER THE CHARACTERS MY NAME'S WRITTEN WITH, IT...
...JUST SEEMED TO FIT...*
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
Ah ha ha! YOU'RE JUST LIKE ME.

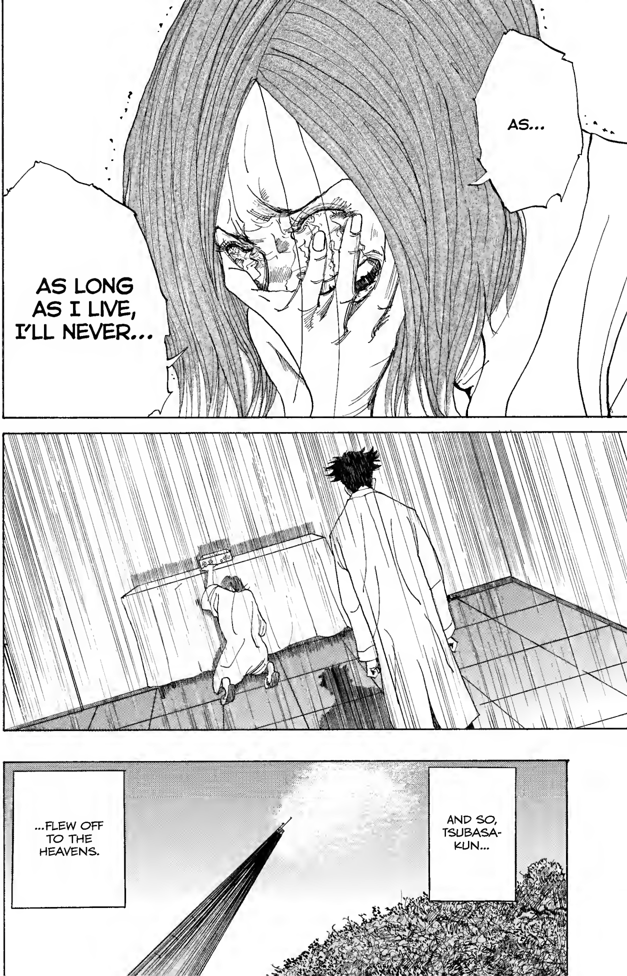
*SEE TRANSLATION NOTES, PAGE 219.

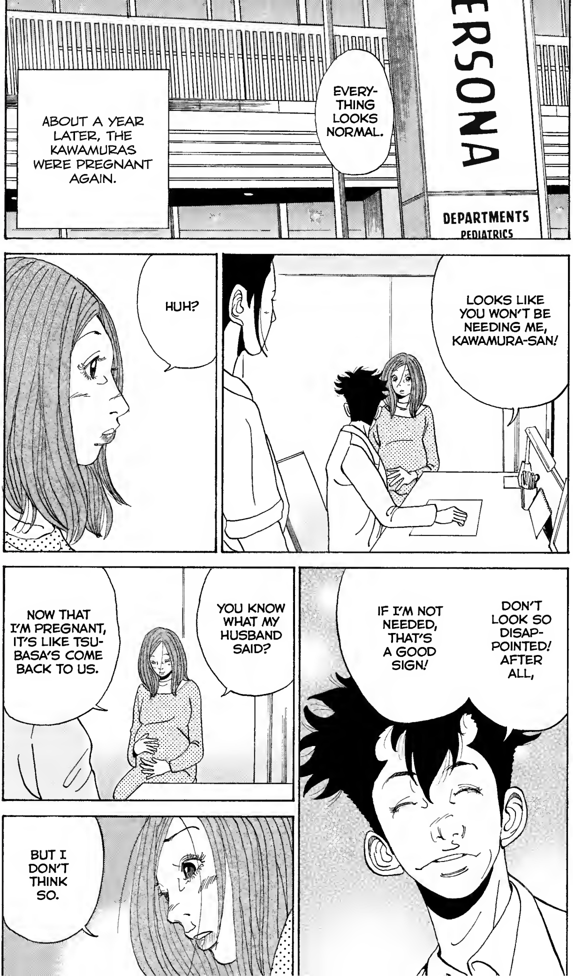

MY NAME MEANS "STORK," SO, YOU KNOW...
...I DON'T WANT TO WRITE THIS.
LOOK AT IT.
CERTIFICATE OF STILLBIRT
HIS INFORMATION WILL BE USED TO TRACK STATISTICS REGARDING STILLBIRTHS IN JAPA
MALE
FEMALE
KNOWN
MOTHER'S NAME
Kawamura Mi
WEEKS OF PREGNANC

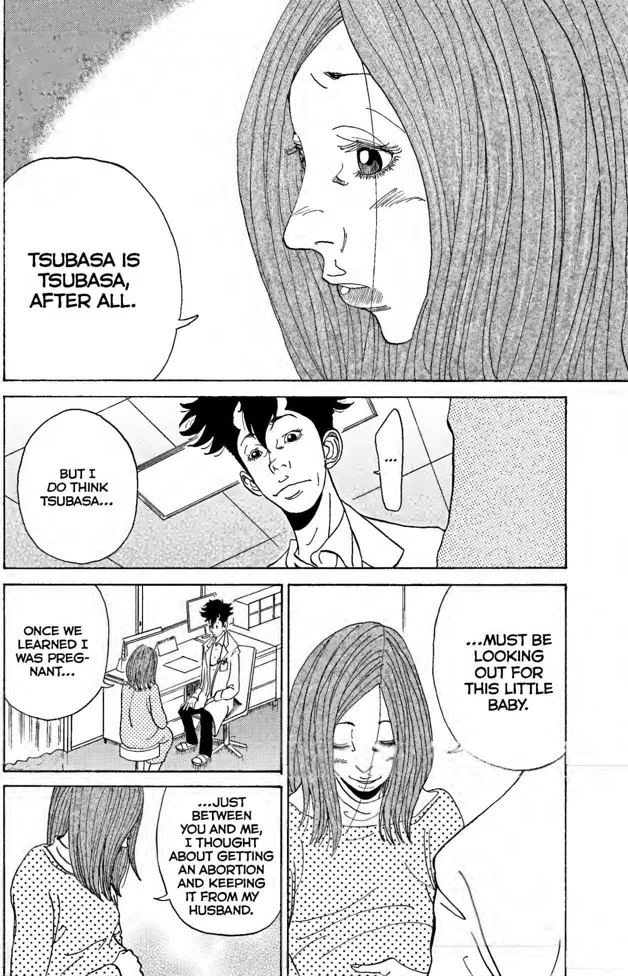

THERE'S NOT MUCH BLEEDING...
...AND YOUR COMPLEXION DOESN'T LOOK BAD.
DOCTOR ...
I WENT THROUGH ALL THAT TROUBLE TO DELIVER MY BABY...
...AND NOW HE'S GONE.
IT'S KIND OF SUR-REAL.
...
I THOUGHT ...

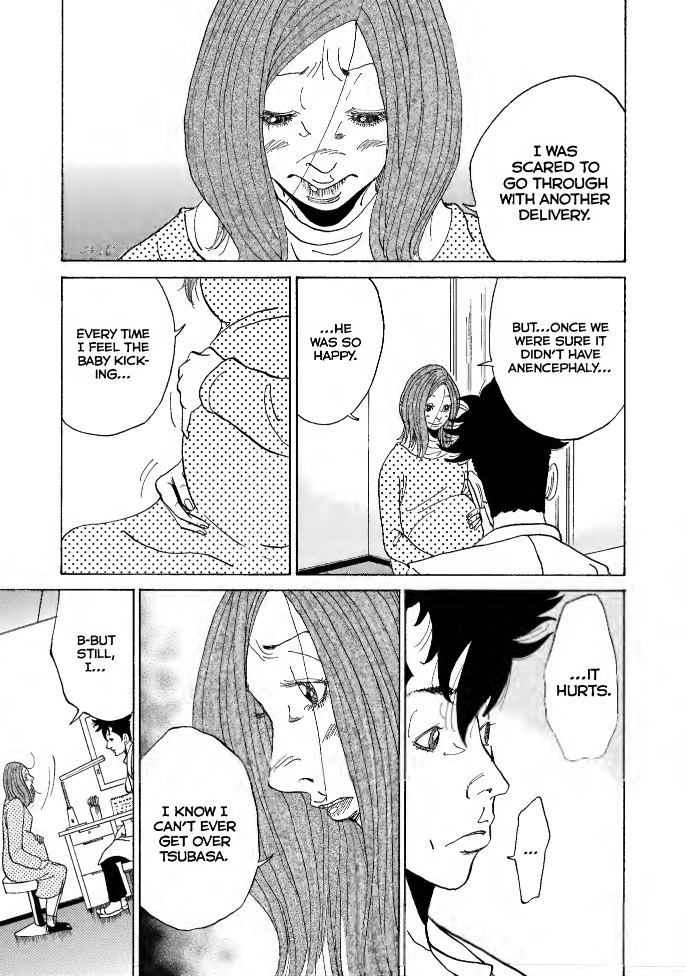

...CHILDBIRTH WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A LITTLE HAPPIER.
DOCTOR.
CAN YOU TAKE ME TO SEE TSUBASA AGAIN?
TSUBASA...

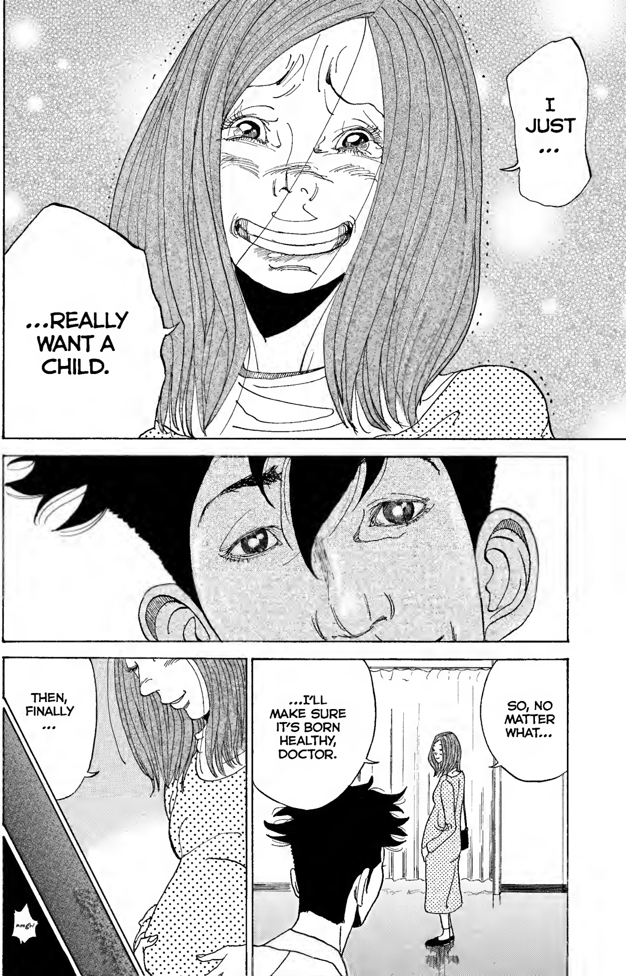

IT'S SO PRETTY...
THE MIDWIVES GOT TOGETHER TO PREPARE IT FOR HIM.
GOOD FOR YOU, TSUBASA!
DOCTOR...
...WHY DID HE HAVE TO DIE?
WHY DID TSUBASA HAVE TO DIE?!
ガッ
CLACK

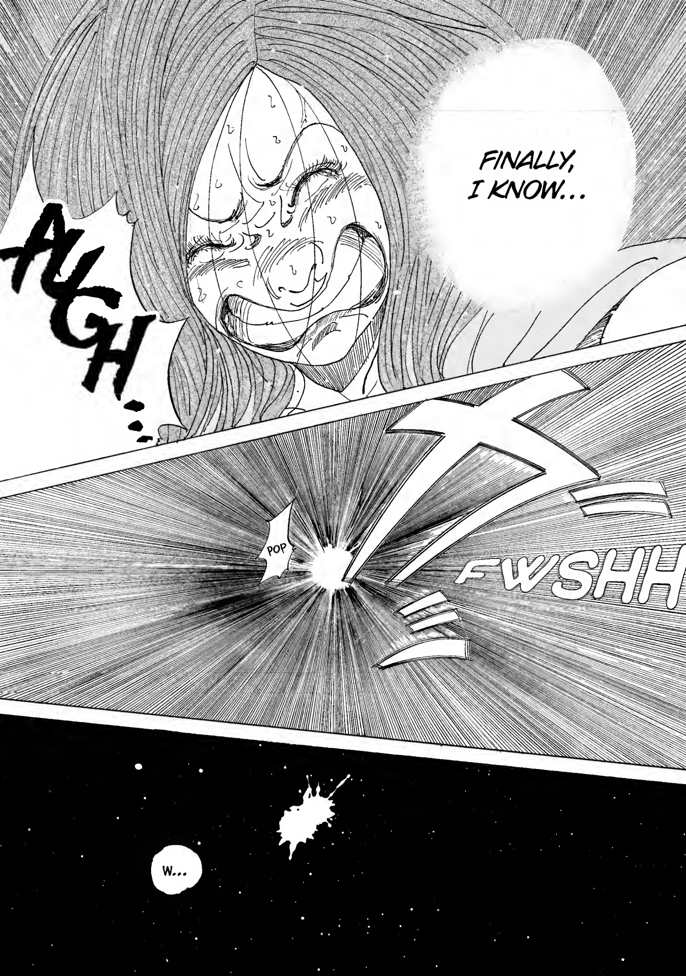

AS...
AS LONG AS I LIVE, I'LL NEVER...
AND SO, TSUBASA-KUN...
...FLEW OFF TO THE HEAVENS.

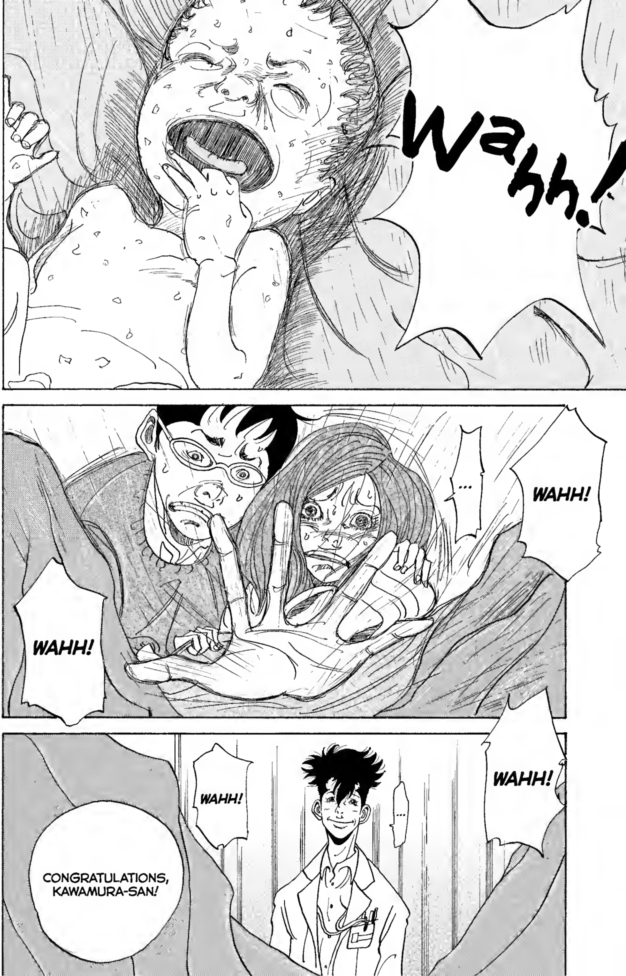

ABOUT A YEAR LATER, THE KAWAMURAS WERE PREGNANT AGAIN.
ERSONA
DEPARTMENTS
PEDIATRICS
EVERYTHING LOOKS NORMAL.
LOOKS LIKE YOU WON'T BE NEEDING ME, KAWAMURA-SAN!
HUH?
DON'T LOOK SO DISAPPOINTED! AFTER ALL,
IF I'M NOT NEEDED, THAT'S A GOOD SIGN!
YOU KNOW WHAT MY HUSBAND SAID?
NOW THAT I'M PREGNANT, IT'S LIKE TSUBASA'S COME BACK TO US.
BUT I DON'T THINK SO.

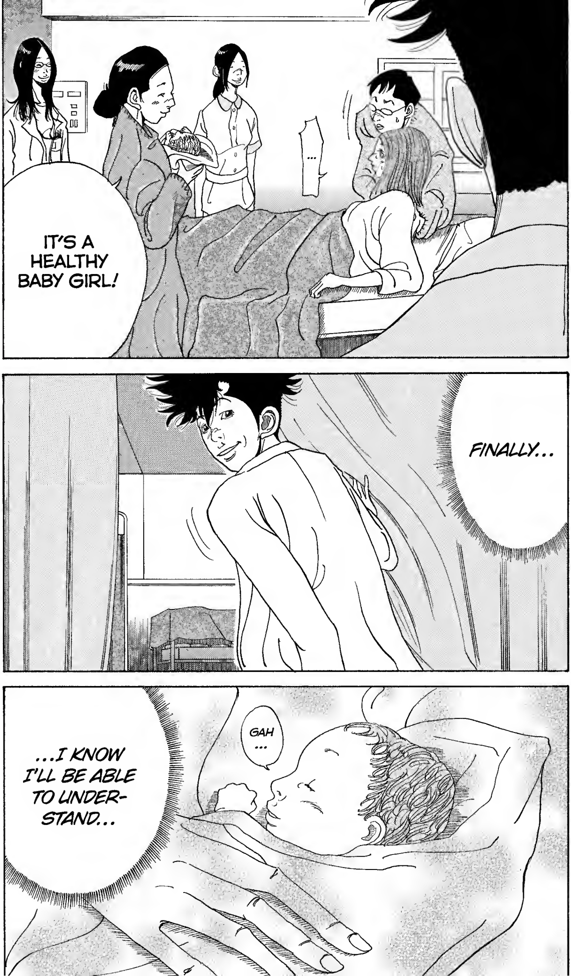

TSUBASA IS TSUBASA, AFTER ALL.
...
BUT I *DO* THINK TSUBASA...
...MUST BE LOOKING OUT FOR THIS LITTLE BABY.
ONCE WE LEARNED I WAS PREGNANT...
...JUST BETWEEN YOU AND ME, I THOUGHT ABOUT GETTING AN ABORTION AND KEEPING IT FROM MY HUSBAND.

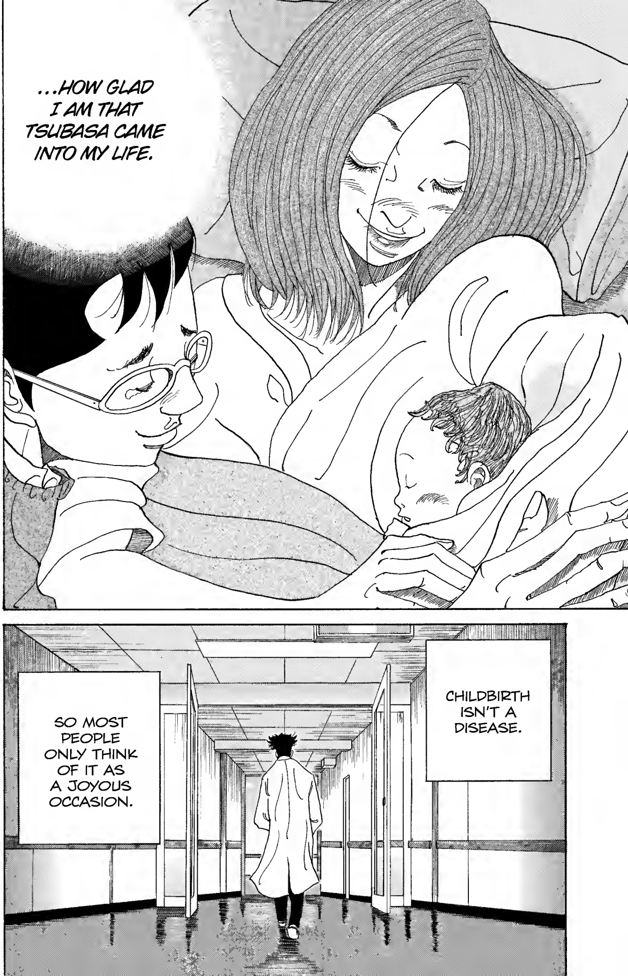

I WAS SCARED TO GO THROUGH WITH ANOTHER DELIVERY.
BUT...ONCE WE WERE SURE IT DIDN'T HAVE ANENCEPHALY...
...HE WAS SO HAPPY.
EVERY TIME I FEEL THE BABY KICKING...
...IT HURTS.
...
I KNOW I CAN'T EVER GET OVER TSUBASA.
B-BUT STILL, I...

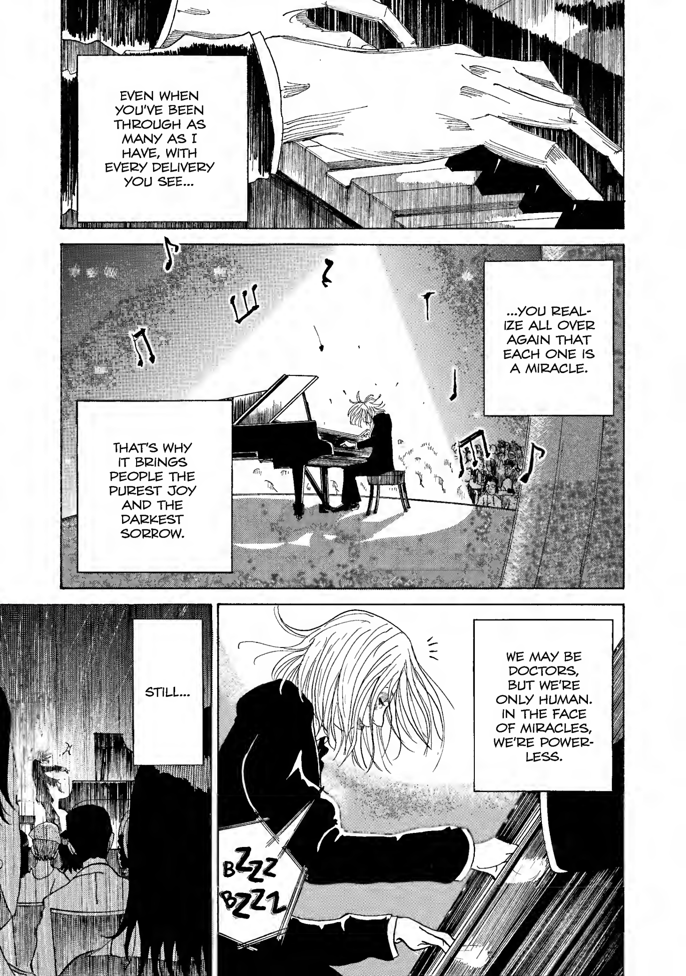

I JUST ...
...REALLY WANT A CHILD.
SO, NO MATTER WHAT...
...I'LL MAKE SURE IT'S BORN HEALTHY, DOCTOR.
THEN, FINALLY ...
mmgh!

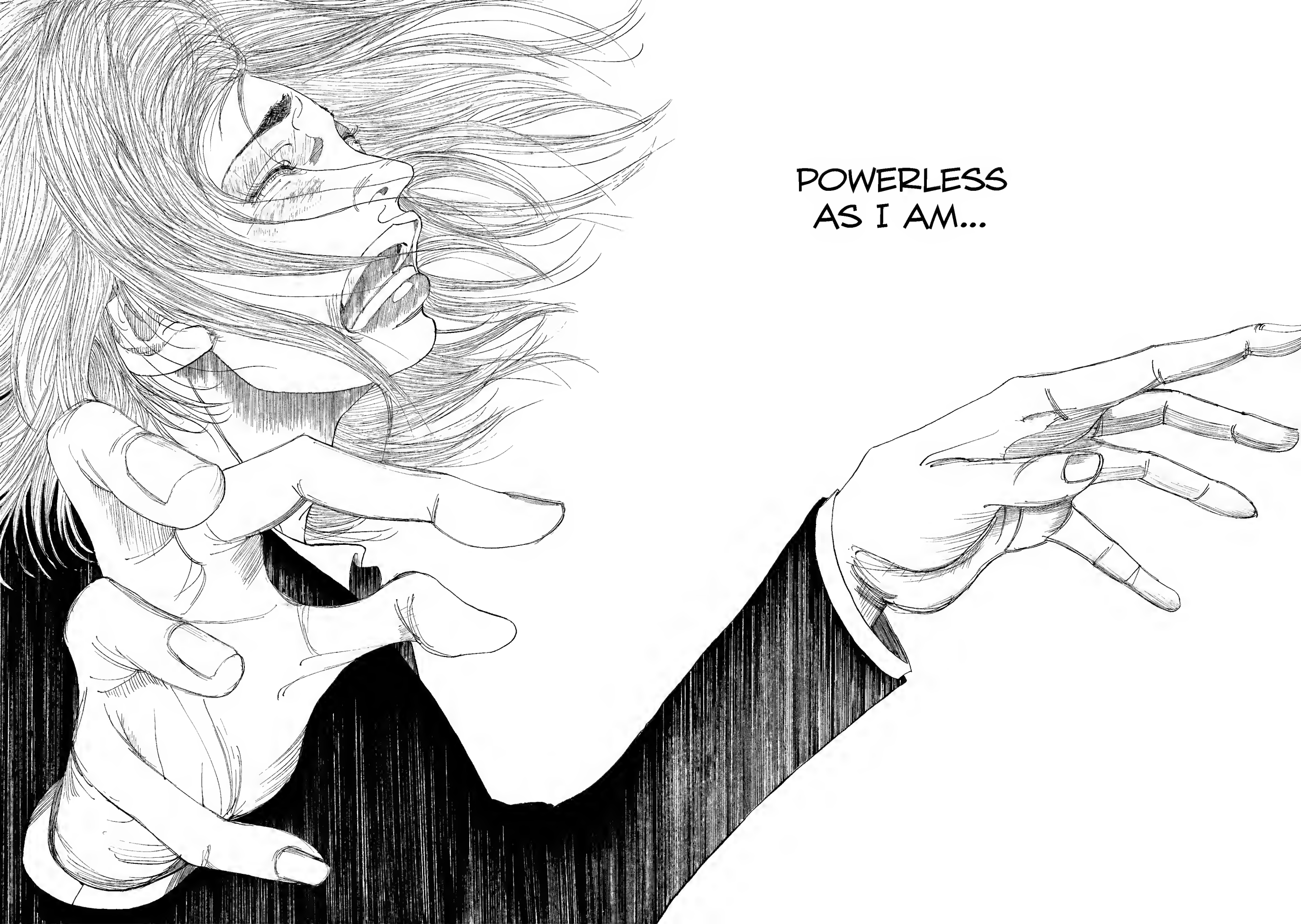

FINALLY, I KNOW...
AUGH...
FWSHH
POP
W...

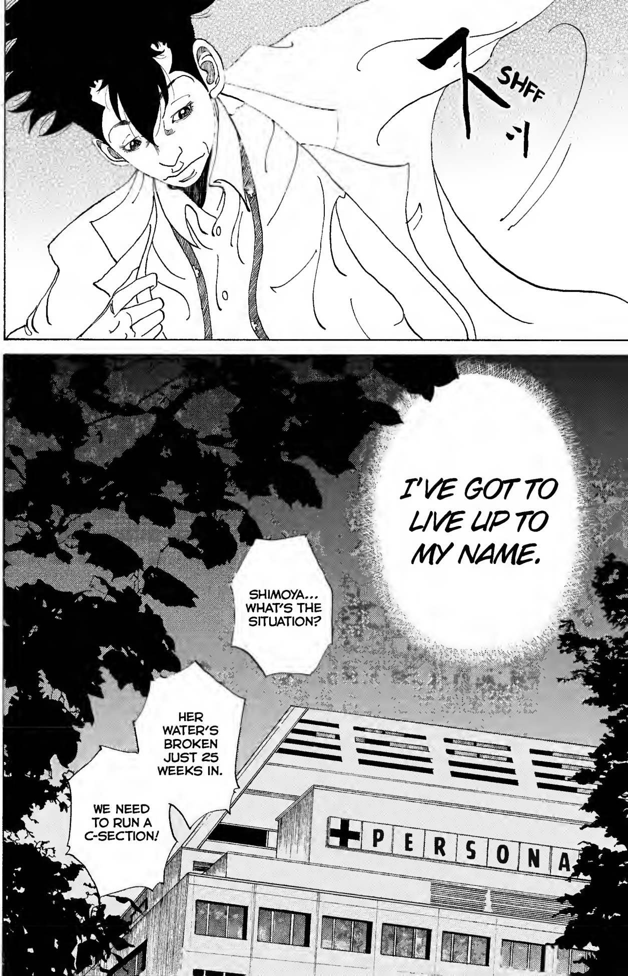

Wahh!
WAHH!
...
WAHH!
WAHH!
...
WAHH!
CONGRATULATIONS, KAWAMURA-SAN!


...
IT'S A HEALTHY BABY GIRL!
FINALLY...
GAH...
...I KNOW I'LL BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND...


...HOW GLAD I AM THAT TSUBASA CAME INTO MY LIFE.
CHILDBIRTH ISN'T A DISEASE.
SO MOST PEOPLE ONLY THINK OF IT AS A JOYOUS OCCASION.

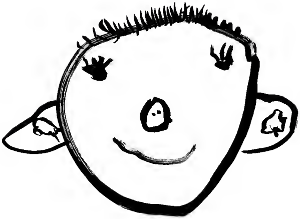

EVEN WHEN YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH AS MANY AS I HAVE, WITH EVERY DELIVERY YOU SEE...
...YOU REALIZE ALL OVER AGAIN THAT EACH ONE IS A MIRACLE.
THAT'S WHY IT BRINGS PEOPLE THE PUREST JOY AND THE DARKEST SORROW.
WE MAY BE DOCTORS, BUT WE'RE ONLY HUMAN. IN THE FACE OF MIRACLES, WE'RE POWERLESS.
BZZZ BZZZ
STILL...


POWERLESS AS I AM...


SHFF
I'VE GOT TO LIVE UP TO MY NAME.
SHIMOYA... WHAT'S THE SITUATION?
HER WATER'S BROKEN JUST 25 WEEKS IN.
WE NEED TO RUN A C-SECTION!
PERSONA

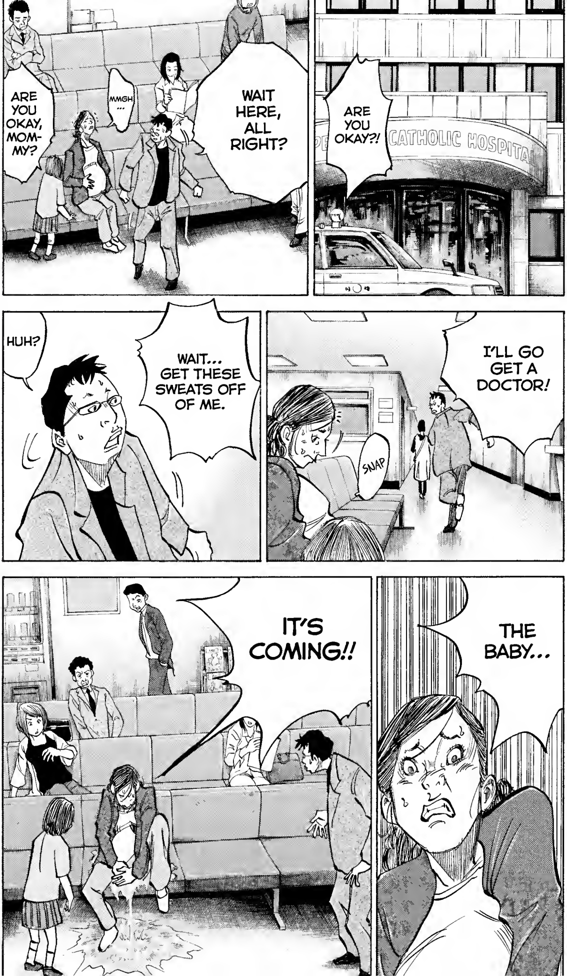
ANENCEPHALY (3) / END

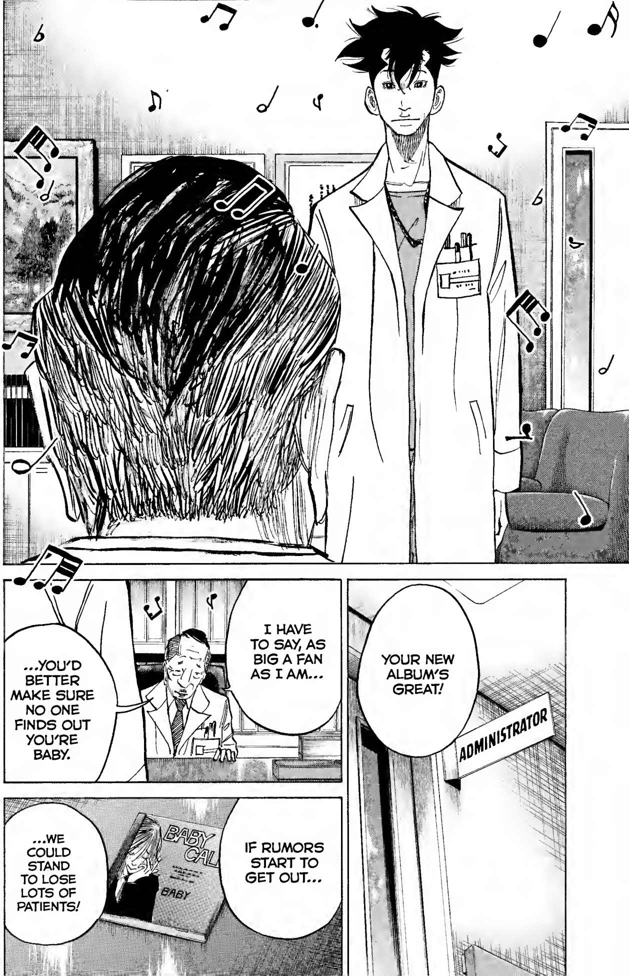
August 15th, 2013
I went to see Eitarou in Osaka! He's zero years old and cute!
—Tenta

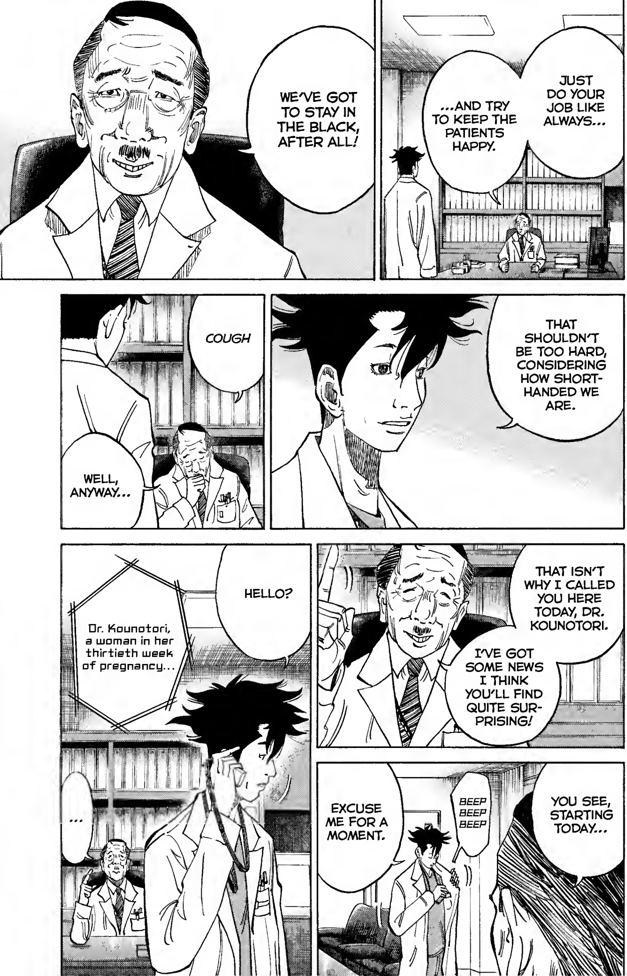


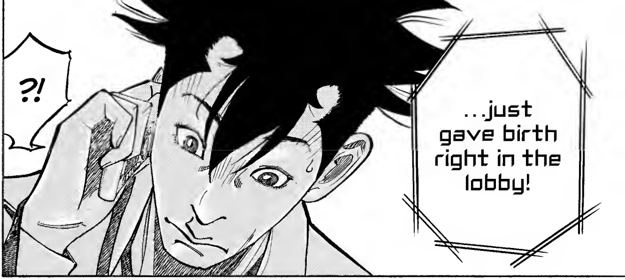
TRACK 6

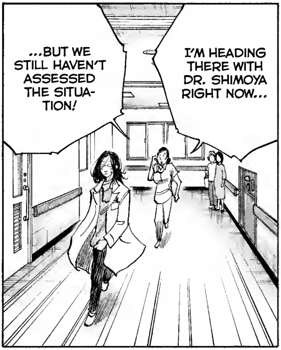
Caul Child

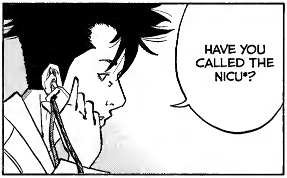

ARE YOU OKAY?!
CATHOLIC HOSPITA
WAIT HERE, ALL RIGHT?
MMGH...
ARE YOU OKAY, MOMMY?
I'LL GO GET A DOCTOR!
SNAP
WAIT... GET THESE SWEATS OFF OF ME.
HUH?
THE BABY...
IT'S COMING!!

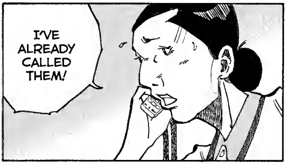

YOUR NEW ALBUM'S GREAT!
ADMINISTRATOR
I HAVE TO SAY, AS BIG A FAN AS I AM...
...YOU'D BETTER MAKE SURE NO ONE FINDS OUT YOU'RE BABY.
IF RUMORS START TO GET OUT...
...WE COULD STAND TO LOSE LOTS OF PATIENTS!
BABY CAL
BABY

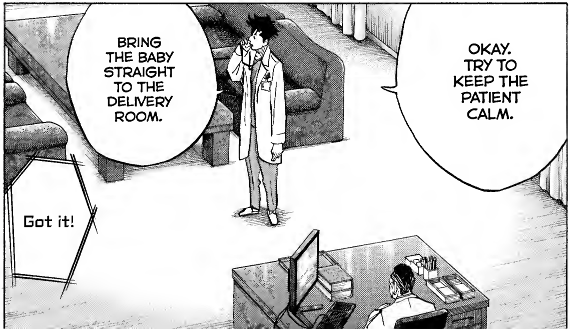

JUST DO YOUR JOB LIKE ALWAYS...
...AND TRY TO KEEP THE PATIENTS HAPPY.
WE'VE GOT TO STAY IN THE BLACK, AFTER ALL!
THAT SHOULDN'T BE TOO HARD, CONSIDERING HOW SHORT-HANDED WE ARE.
COUGH
WELL, ANYWAY...
THAT ISN'T WHY I CALLED YOU HERE TODAY, DR. KOUNOTORI.
I'VE GOT SOME NEWS I THINK YOU'LL FIND QUITE SURPRISING!
YOU SEE, STARTING TODAY...
BEEP BEEP BEEP
EXCUSE ME FOR A MOMENT.
HELLO?
Dr. Kounotori, a woman in her thirtieth week of pregnancy...
...


...just gave birth right in the lobby!
?!


I'M HEADING THERE WITH DR. SHIMOYA RIGHT NOW...
...BUT WE STILL HAVEN'T ASSESSED THE SITUATION!

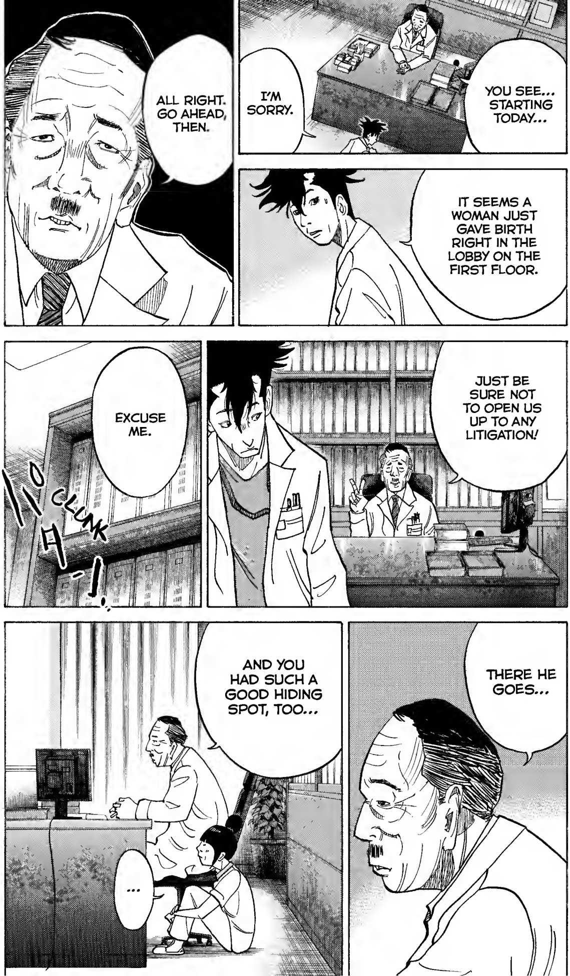

HAVE YOU CALLED THE NICU*?

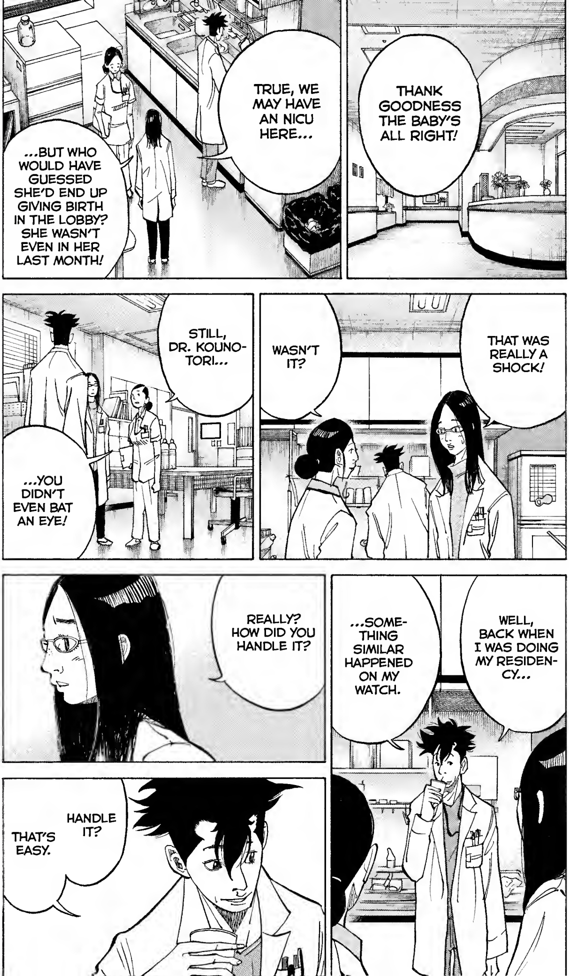

I'VE ALREADY CALLED THEM!

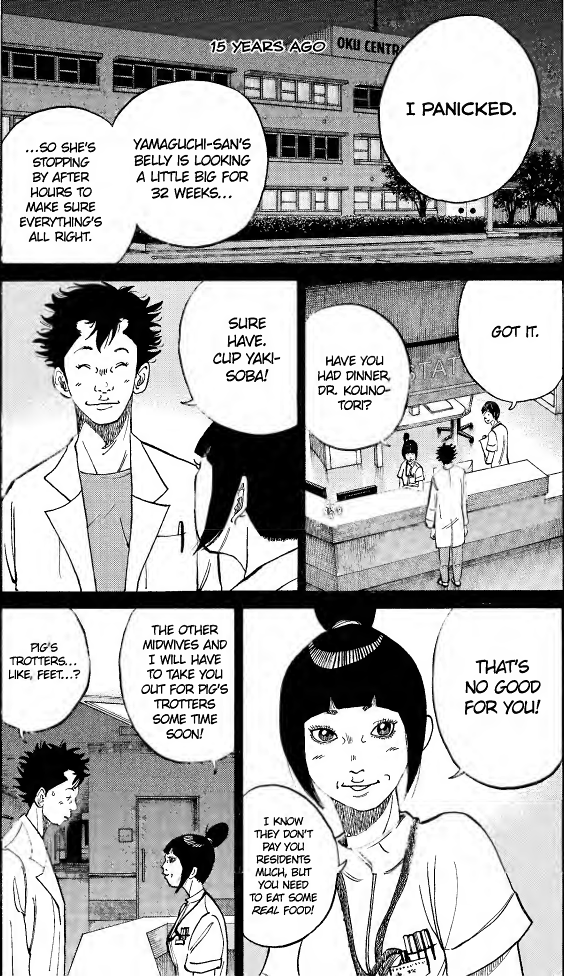

OKAY. TRY TO KEEP THE PATIENT CALM.
BRING THE BABY STRAIGHT TO THE DELIVERY ROOM.
Got it!

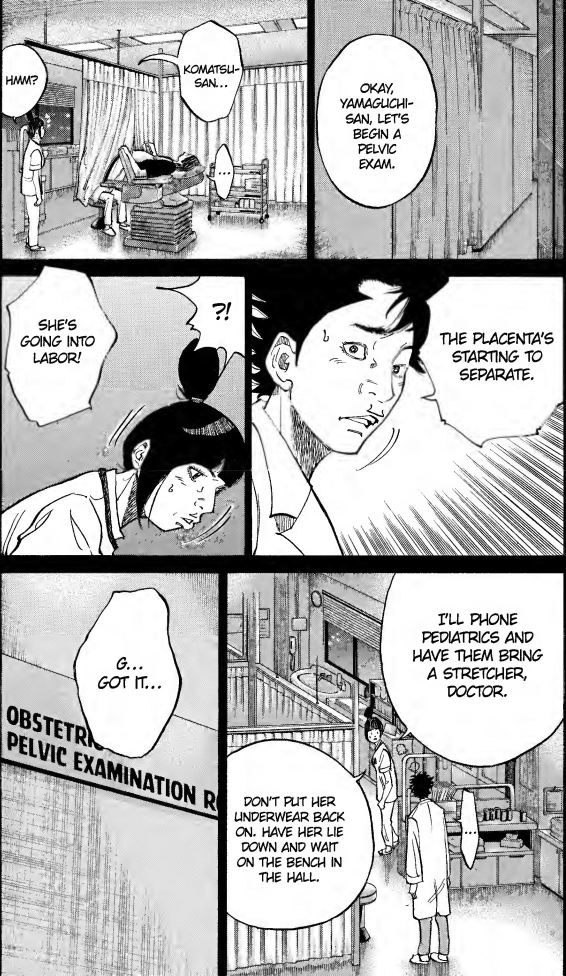
---

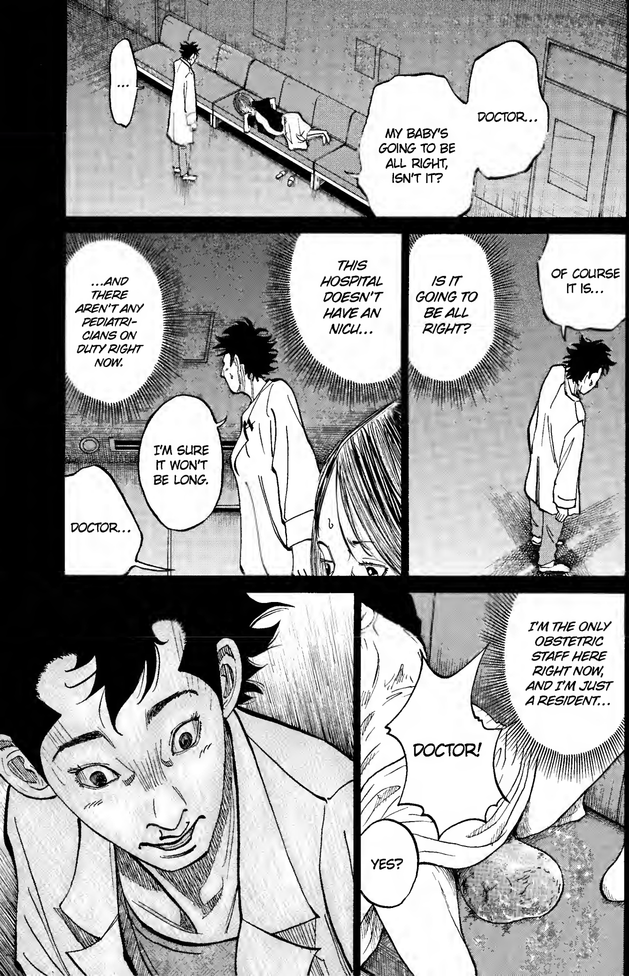
*NICU: NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE UNIT

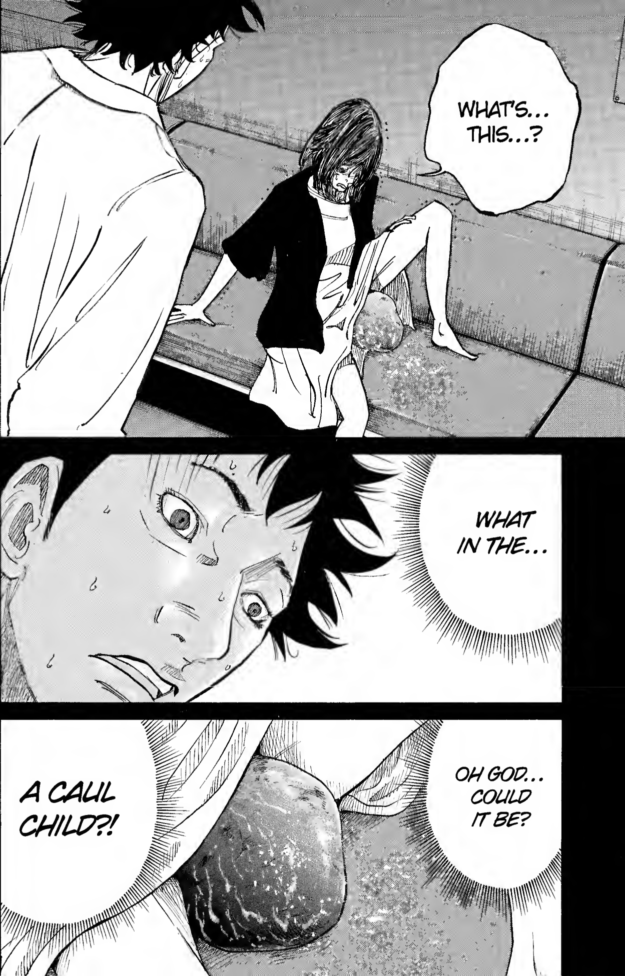

YOU SEE... STARTING TODAY...
I'M SORRY.
IT SEEMS A WOMAN JUST GAVE BIRTH RIGHT IN THE LOBBY ON THE FIRST FLOOR.
ALL RIGHT. GO AHEAD, THEN.
JUST BE SURE NOT TO OPEN US UP TO ANY LITIGATION!
EXCUSE ME.
CLUNK
THERE HE GOES...
AND YOU HAD SUCH A GOOD HIDING SPOT, TOO...
...

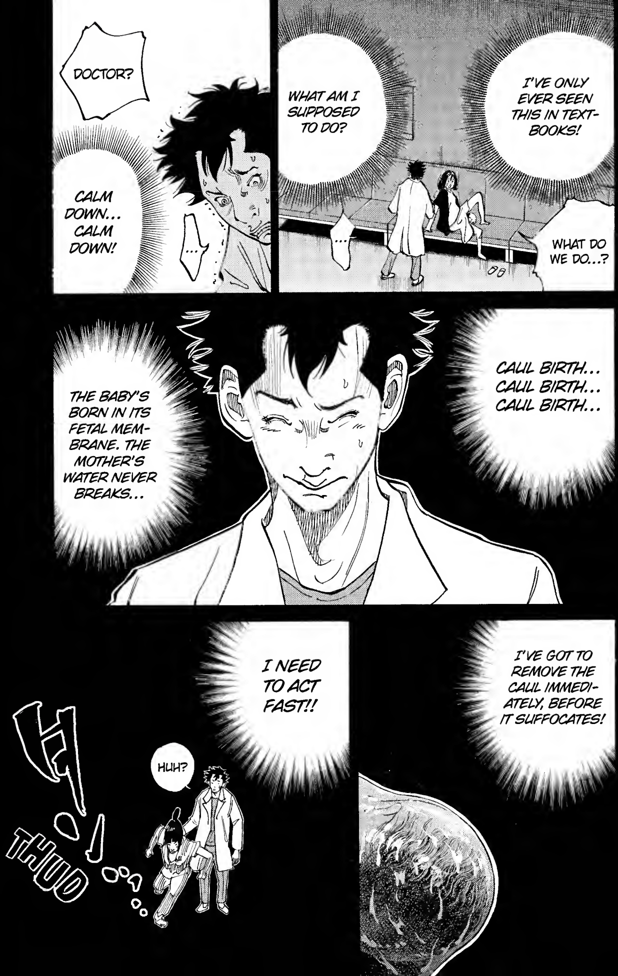

THANK GOODNESS THE BABY'S ALL RIGHT!
TRUE, WE MAY HAVE AN NICU HERE...
...BUT WHO WOULD HAVE GUESSED SHE'D END UP GIVING BIRTH IN THE LOBBY? SHE WASN'T EVEN IN HER LAST MONTH!
THAT WAS REALLY A SHOCK!
WASN'T IT?
STILL, DR. KOUNOTORI...
...YOU DIDN'T EVEN BAT AN EYE!
WELL, BACK WHEN I WAS DOING MY RESIDENCY...
...SOMETHING SIMILAR HAPPENED ON MY WATCH.
REALLY? HOW DID YOU HANDLE IT?
HANDLE IT?
THAT'S EASY.

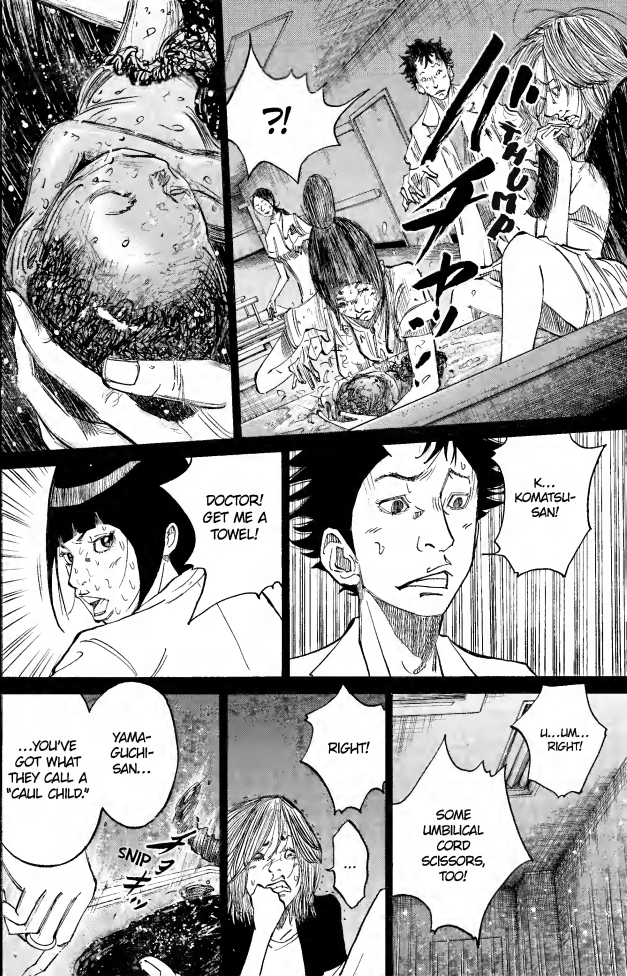

15 YEARS AGO
OKU CENTR
I PANICKED.
YAMAGUCHI-SAN'S BELLY IS LOOKING A LITTLE BIG FOR 32 WEEKS...
...SO SHE'S STOPPING BY AFTER HOURS TO MAKE SURE EVERYTHING'S ALL RIGHT.
GOT IT.
STAT
HAVE YOU HAD DINNER, DR. KOUNOTORI?
SURE HAVE. CUP YAKI-SOBA!
THAT'S NO GOOD FOR YOU!
I KNOW THEY DON'T PAY YOU RESIDENTS MUCH, BUT YOU NEED TO EAT SOME *REAL* FOOD!
THE OTHER MIDWIVES AND I WILL HAVE TO TAKE YOU OUT FOR PIG'S TROTTERS SOME TIME SOON!
PIG'S TROTTERS... LIKE, FEET...?

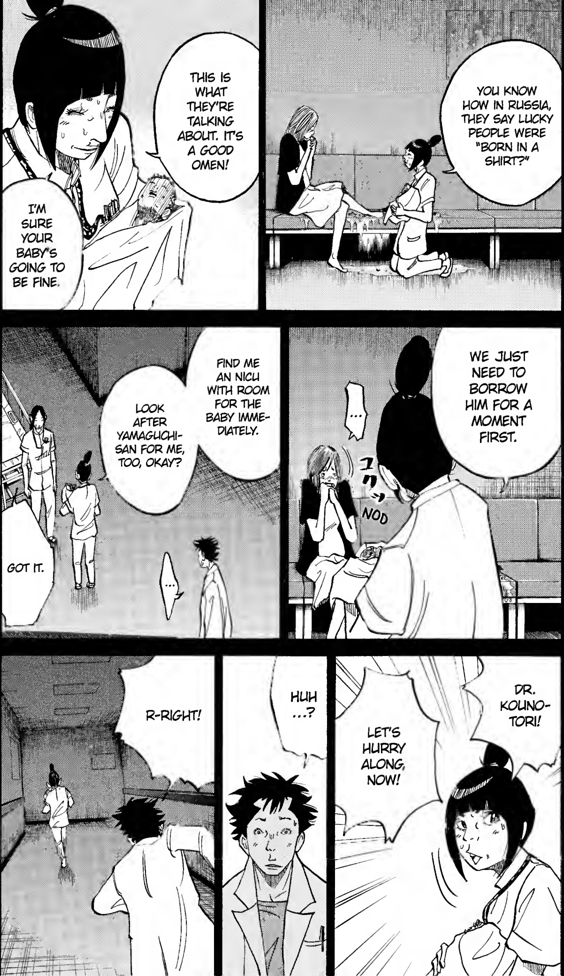

OKAY, YAMAGUCHI-SAN, LET'S BEGIN A PELVIC EXAM.
KOMATSU-SAN...
HMM?
...
THE PLACENTA'S STARTING TO SEPARATE.
?!
SHE'S GOING INTO LABOR!
I'LL PHONE PEDIATRICS AND HAVE THEM BRING A STRETCHER, DOCTOR.
...
DON'T PUT HER UNDERWEAR BACK ON. HAVE HER LIE DOWN AND WAIT ON THE BENCH IN THE HALL.
G... GOT IT...
OBSTETRI
PELVIC EXAMINATION R

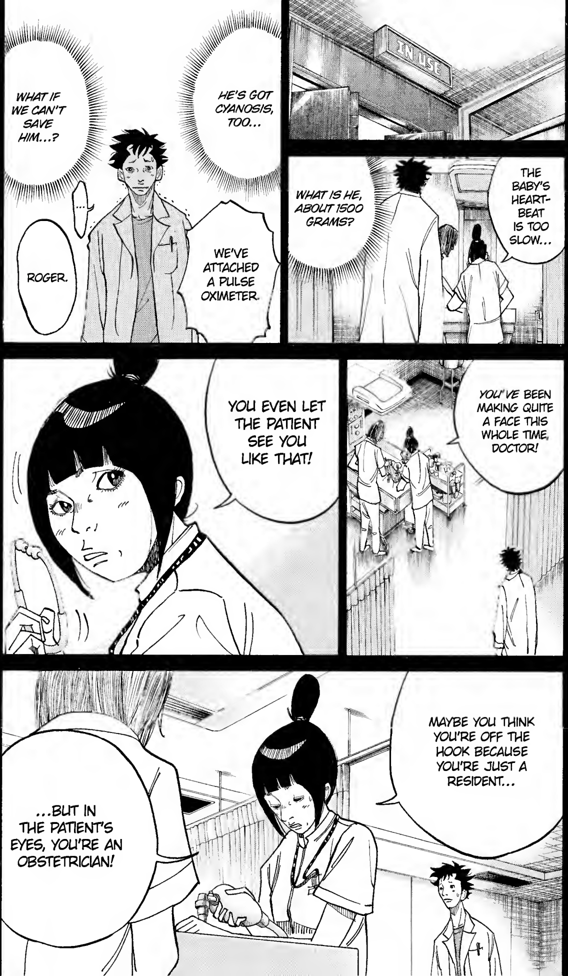

DOCTOR…
MY BABY'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT, ISN'T IT?
…
OF COURSE IT IS…
IS IT GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT?
THIS HOSPITAL DOESN'T HAVE AN NICU…
…AND THERE AREN'T ANY PEDIATRICIANS ON DUTY RIGHT NOW.
I'M SURE IT WON'T BE LONG.
DOCTOR…
I'M THE ONLY OBSTETRIC STAFF HERE RIGHT NOW, AND I'M JUST A RESIDENT…
DOCTOR!
YES?

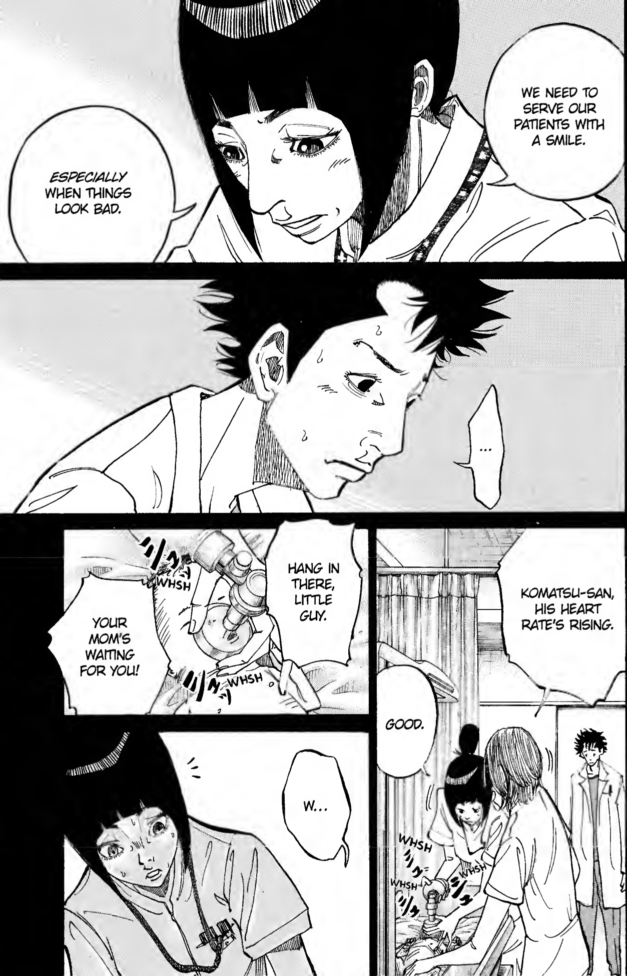

WHAT'S... THIS...?
WHAT IN THE...
OH GOD... COULD IT BE?
A CAUL CHILD?!

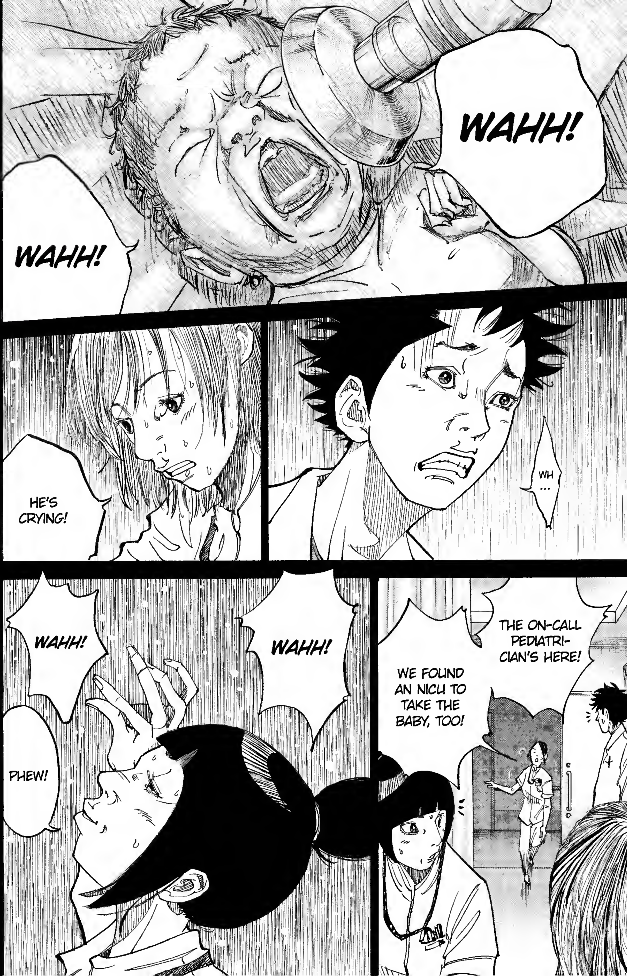

WHAT DO WE DO...?
...
I'VE ONLY EVER SEEN THIS IN TEXTBOOKS!
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?
DOCTOR?
...
CALM DOWN... CALM DOWN!
CAUL BIRTH... CAUL BIRTH... CAUL BIRTH...
THE BABY'S BORN IN ITS FETAL MEMBRANE. THE MOTHER'S WATER NEVER BREAKS...
I'VE GOT TO REMOVE THE CAUL IMMEDIATELY, BEFORE IT SUFFOCATES!
I NEED TO ACT FAST!!
HUH?
THUD

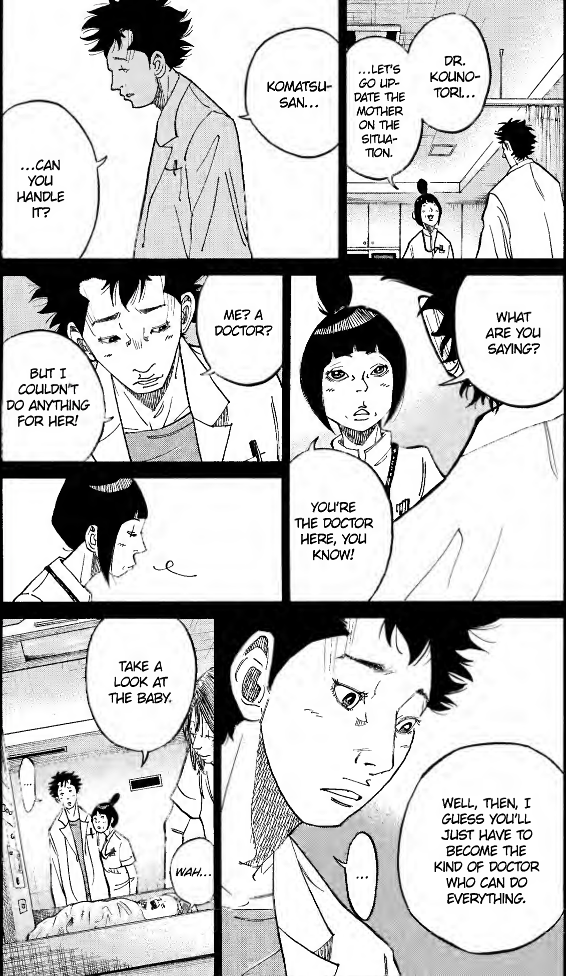

?!
THUMP
バチャン
K... KOMATSU-SAN!
DOCTOR! GET ME A TOWEL!
U...UM... RIGHT!
SOME UMBILICAL CORD SCISSORS, TOO!
RIGHT!
...
YAMAGUCHI-SAN...
...YOU'VE GOT WHAT THEY CALL A "CAUL CHILD."
SNIP
チョキッ

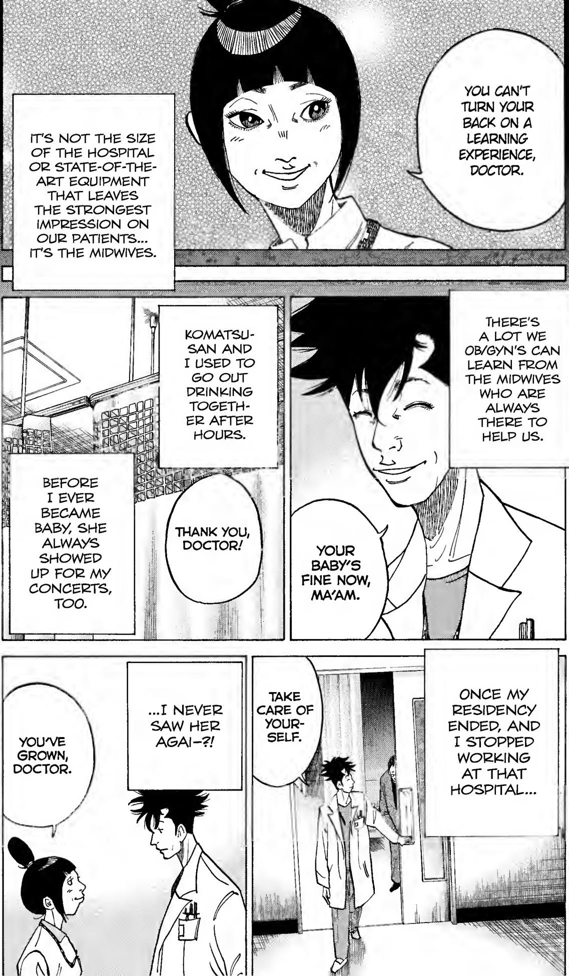

YOU KNOW HOW IN RUSSIA, THEY SAY LUCKY PEOPLE WERE "BORN IN A SHIRT?"
THIS IS WHAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT. IT'S A GOOD OMEN!
I'M SURE YOUR BABY'S GOING TO BE FINE.
WE JUST NEED TO BORROW HIM FOR A MOMENT FIRST.
...
コクッ
NOD
FIND ME AN NICU WITH ROOM FOR THE BABY IMMEDIATELY.
LOOK AFTER YAMAGUCHI-SAN FOR ME, TOO, OKAY?
...
GOT IT.
DR. KOUNOTORI!
LET'S HURRY ALONG, NOW!
HUH ...?
R-RIGHT!

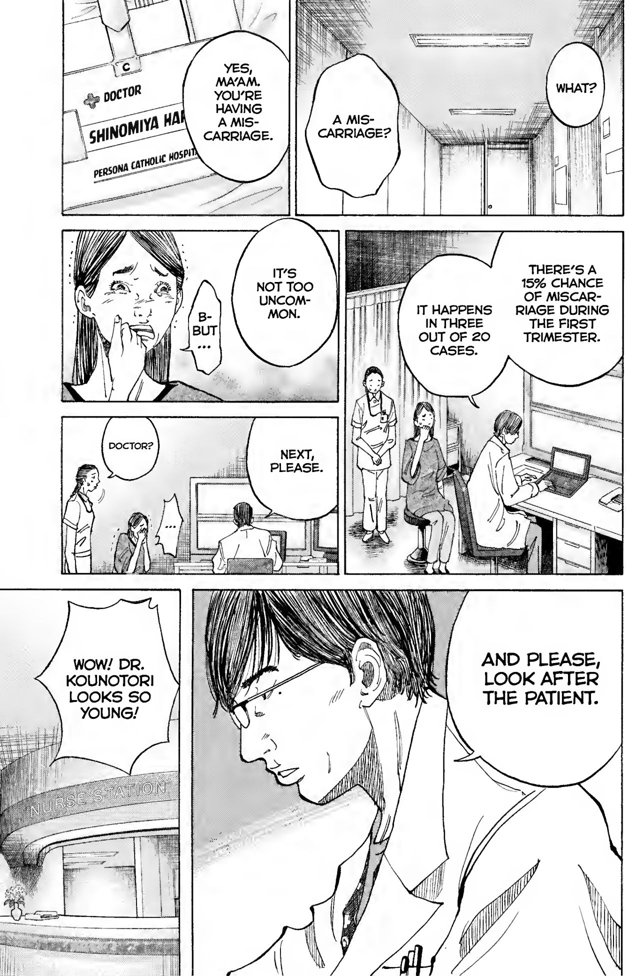

IN USE
THE BABY'S HEART-BEAT IS TOO SLOW…
WHAT IS HE, ABOUT 1500 GRAMS?
HE'S GOT CYANOSIS, TOO…
WHAT IF WE CAN'T SAVE HIM…?
WE'VE ATTACHED A PULSE OXIMETER.
…
ROGER.
YOU'VE BEEN MAKING QUITE A FACE THIS WHOLE TIME, DOCTOR!
YOU EVEN LET THE PATIENT SEE YOU LIKE THAT!
MAYBE YOU THINK YOU'RE OFF THE HOOK BECAUSE YOU'RE JUST A RESIDENT…
…BUT IN THE PATIENT'S EYES, YOU'RE AN OBSTETRICIAN!

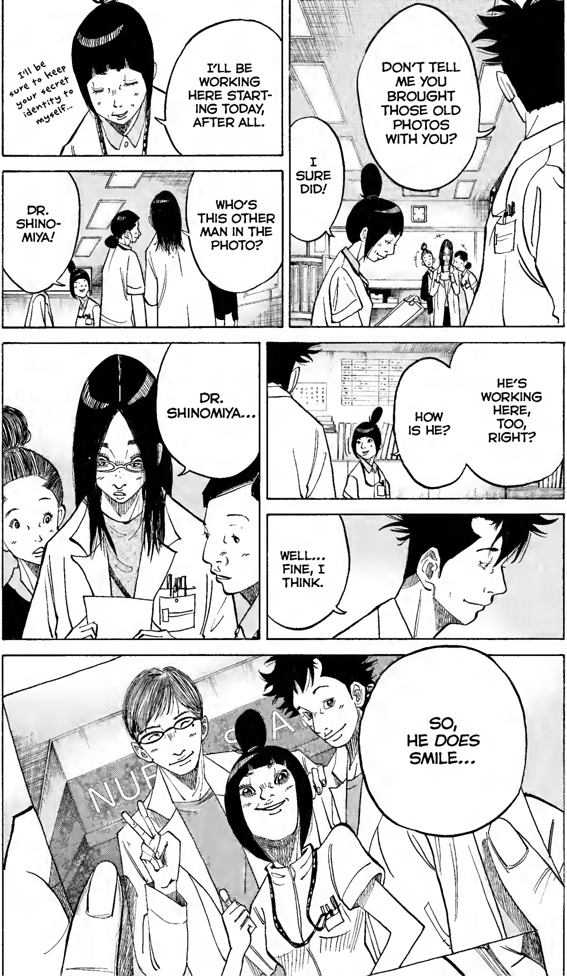

WE NEED TO SERVE OUR PATIENTS WITH A SMILE.
ESPECIALLY WHEN THINGS LOOK BAD.
...
KOMATSU-SAN, HIS HEART RATE'S RISING.
GOOD.
WHSH
WHSH
WHSH
HANG IN THERE, LITTLE GUY.
WHSH
YOUR MOM'S WAITING FOR YOU!
WHSH
W...


WAHH!
WAHH!
WH ...
HE'S CRYING!
THE ON-CALL PEDIATRICIAN'S HERE!
WE FOUND AN NICU TO TAKE THE BABY, TOO!
WAHH!
WAHH!
PHEW!


DR. KOUNOTORI...
...LET'S GO UPDATE THE MOTHER ON THE SITUATION.
KOMATSU-SAN...
...CAN YOU HANDLE IT?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
YOU'RE THE DOCTOR HERE, YOU KNOW!
ME? A DOCTOR?
BUT I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING FOR HER!
WELL, THEN, I GUESS YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO BECOME THE KIND OF DOCTOR WHO CAN DO EVERYTHING.
...
TAKE A LOOK AT THE BABY.
...
WAH...

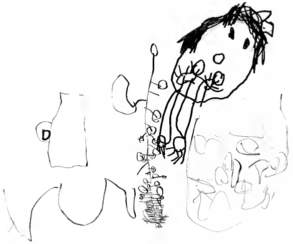

YOU CAN'T TURN YOUR BACK ON A LEARNING EXPERIENCE, DOCTOR.
IT'S NOT THE SIZE OF THE HOSPITAL OR STATE-OF-THE-ART EQUIPMENT THAT LEAVES THE STRONGEST IMPRESSION ON OUR PATIENTS... IT'S THE MIDWIVES.
THERE'S A LOT WE OB/GYN'S CAN LEARN FROM THE MIDWIVES WHO ARE ALWAYS THERE TO HELP US.
YOUR BABY'S FINE NOW, MA'AM.
KOMATSU-SAN AND I USED TO GO OUT DRINKING TOGETHER AFTER HOURS.
THANK YOU, DOCTOR!
BEFORE I EVER BECAME BABY, SHE ALWAYS SHOWED UP FOR MY CONCERTS, TOO.
ONCE MY RESIDENCY ENDED, AND I STOPPED WORKING AT THAT HOSPITAL...
TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.
...I NEVER SAW HER AGAI-?!
YOU'VE GROWN, DOCTOR.


WHAT?
A MISCARRIAGE?
YES, MA'AM. YOU'RE HAVING A MISCARRIAGE.
C
DOCTOR
SHINOMIYA HA
PERSONA CATHOLIC HOSPIT
THERE'S A 15% CHANCE OF MISCARRIAGE DURING THE FIRST TRIMESTER.
IT HAPPENS IN THREE OUT OF 20 CASES.
IT'S NOT TOO UNCOMMON.
B-BUT...
NEXT, PLEASE.
...
DOCTOR?
AND PLEASE, LOOK AFTER THE PATIENT.
WOW! DR. KOUNOTORI LOOKS SO YOUNG!
NURSE STATION


DON'T TELL ME YOU BROUGHT THOSE OLD PHOTOS WITH YOU?
I SURE DID!
I'LL BE WORKING HERE STARTING TODAY, AFTER ALL.
I'll be sure to keep your secret identity to myself...
WHO'S THIS OTHER MAN IN THE PHOTO?
DR. SHINOMIYA!
HE'S WORKING HERE, TOO, RIGHT?
HOW IS HE?
WELL... FINE, I THINK.
DR. SHINOMIYA...
SO, HE *DOES* SMILE...
NUR

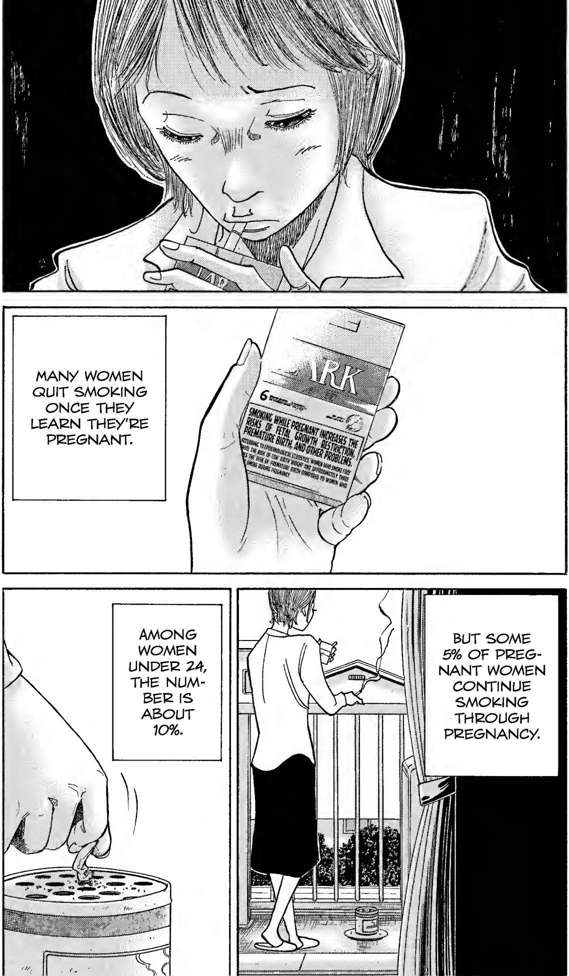
CAUL CHILD / END

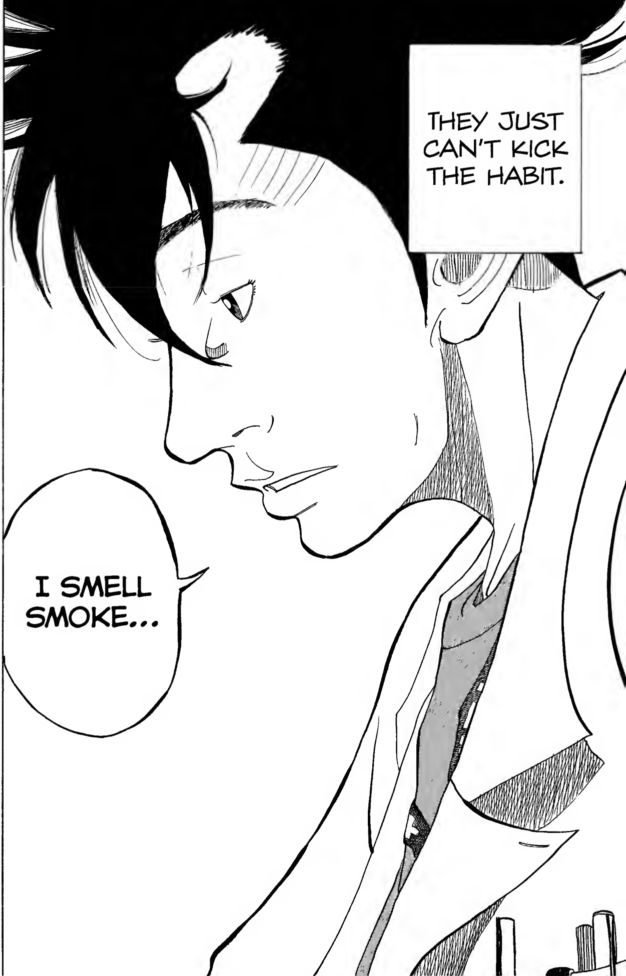
August 25th, 2013
I ate lots of grapes. I ate them all by myself!
—Tenta

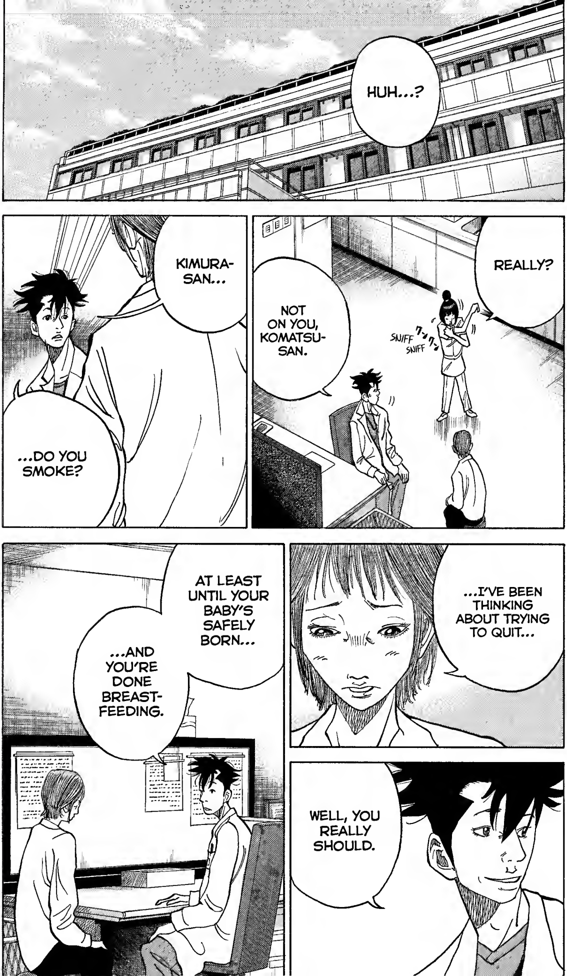


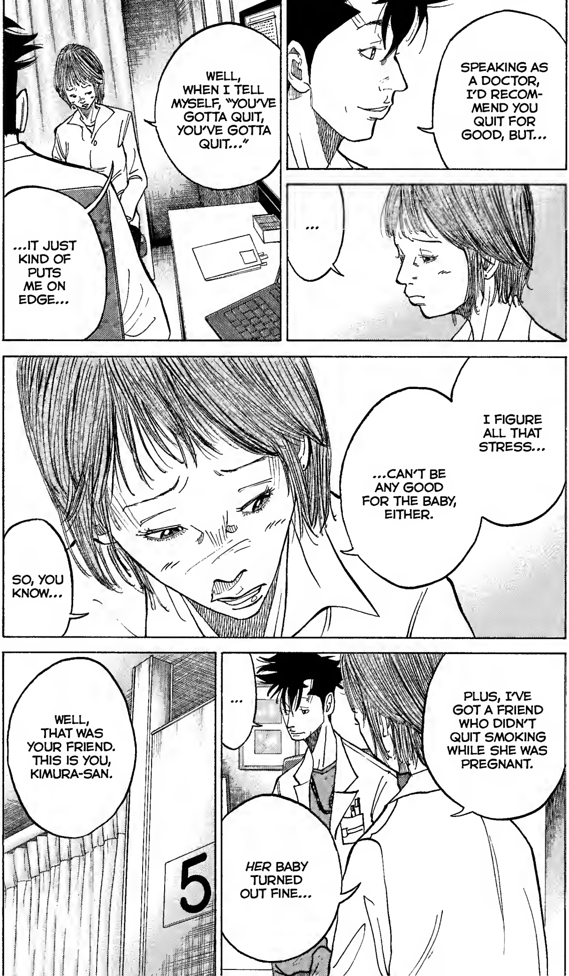
TRACK 7

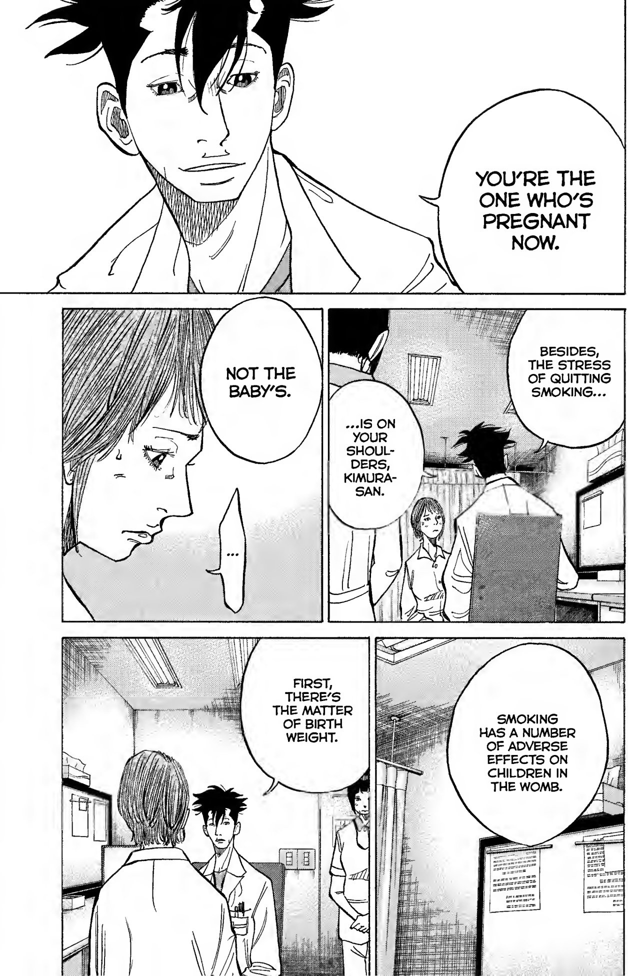
Maternal Smoking

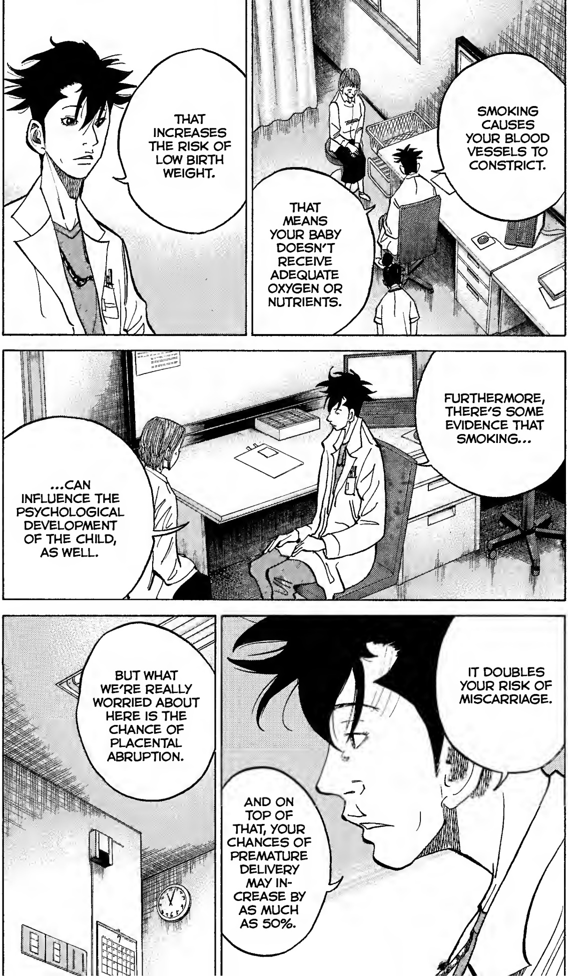

MANY WOMEN QUIT SMOKING ONCE THEY LEARN THEY'RE PREGNANT.
RK
6
SMOKING WHILE PREGNANT INCREASES THE RISKS OF FETAL GROWTH RESTRICTION, PREMATURE BIRTH, AND OTHER PROBLEMS.
ACCORDING TO EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STATISTICS, WOMEN WHO SMOKE FACE
ICE THE RISK OF LOW BIRTH WEIGHT AND APPROXIMATELY THREE
ES THE RISK OF PREMATURE BIRTH COMPARED TO WOMEN WHO
SMOKE DURING PREGNANCY
BUT SOME 5% OF PREGNANT WOMEN CONTINUE SMOKING THROUGH PREGNANCY.
AMONG WOMEN UNDER 24, THE NUMBER IS ABOUT 10%.

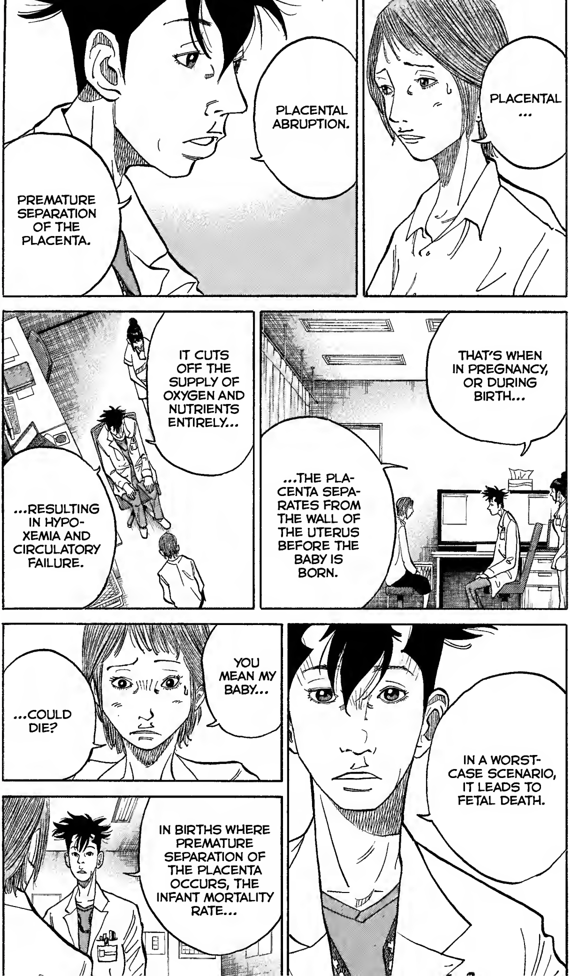

THEY JUST CAN'T KICK THE HABIT.
I SMELL SMOKE...

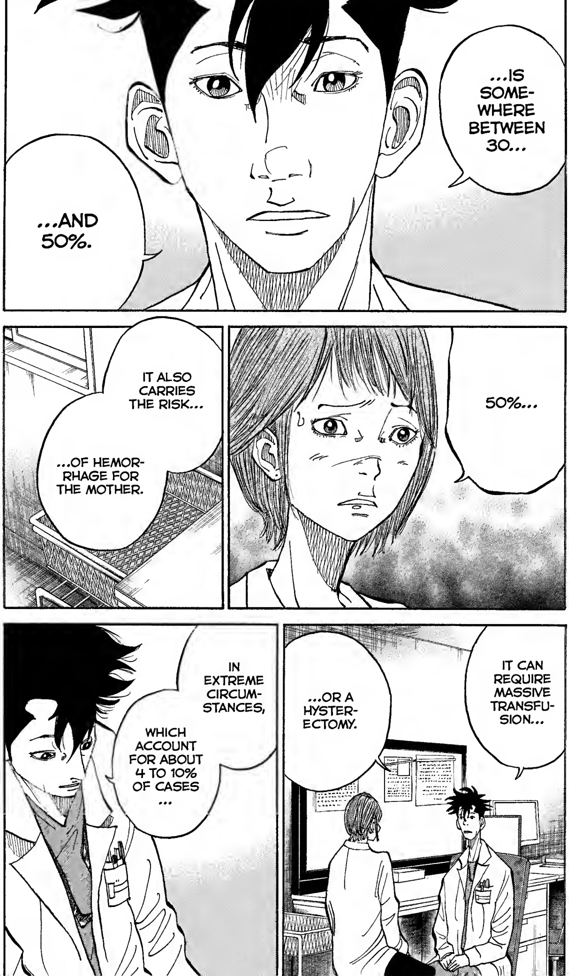

HUH...?
REALLY?
SNIFF SNIFF
クンクン
NOT ON YOU, KOMATSU-SAN.
KIMURA-SAN...
...DO YOU SMOKE?
...I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT TRYING TO QUIT...
WELL, YOU REALLY SHOULD.
AT LEAST UNTIL YOUR BABY'S SAFELY BORN...
...AND YOU'RE DONE BREAST-FEEDING.

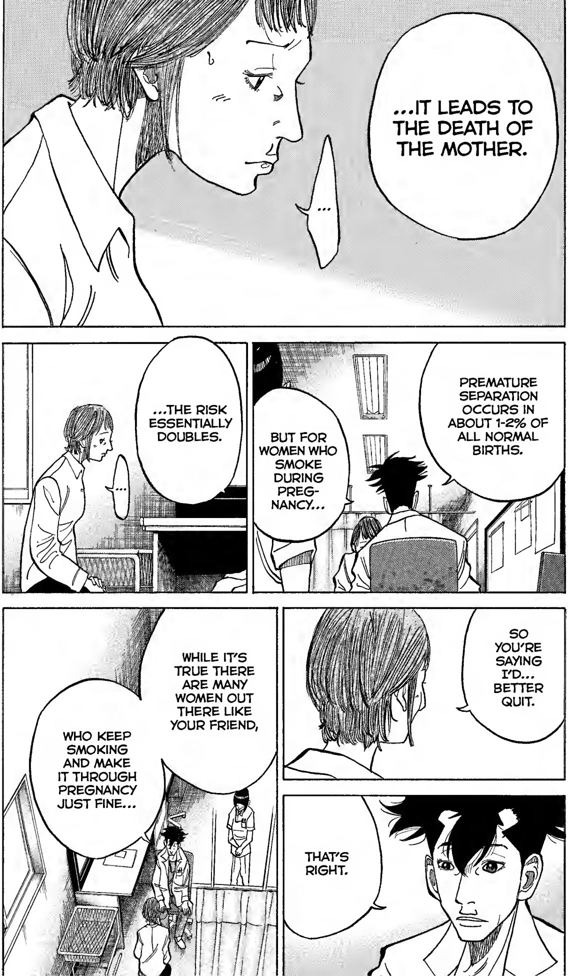

SPEAKING AS A DOCTOR, I'D RECOMMEND YOU QUIT FOR GOOD, BUT...
...
WELL, WHEN I TELL MYSELF, "YOU'VE GOTTA QUIT, YOU'VE GOTTA QUIT..."
...IT JUST KIND OF PUTS ME ON EDGE...
I FIGURE ALL THAT STRESS...
...CAN'T BE ANY GOOD FOR THE BABY, EITHER.
SO, YOU KNOW...
PLUS, I'VE GOT A FRIEND WHO DIDN'T QUIT SMOKING WHILE SHE WAS PREGNANT.
HER BABY TURNED OUT FINE...
...
WELL, THAT WAS YOUR FRIEND. THIS IS YOU, KIMURA-SAN.
5

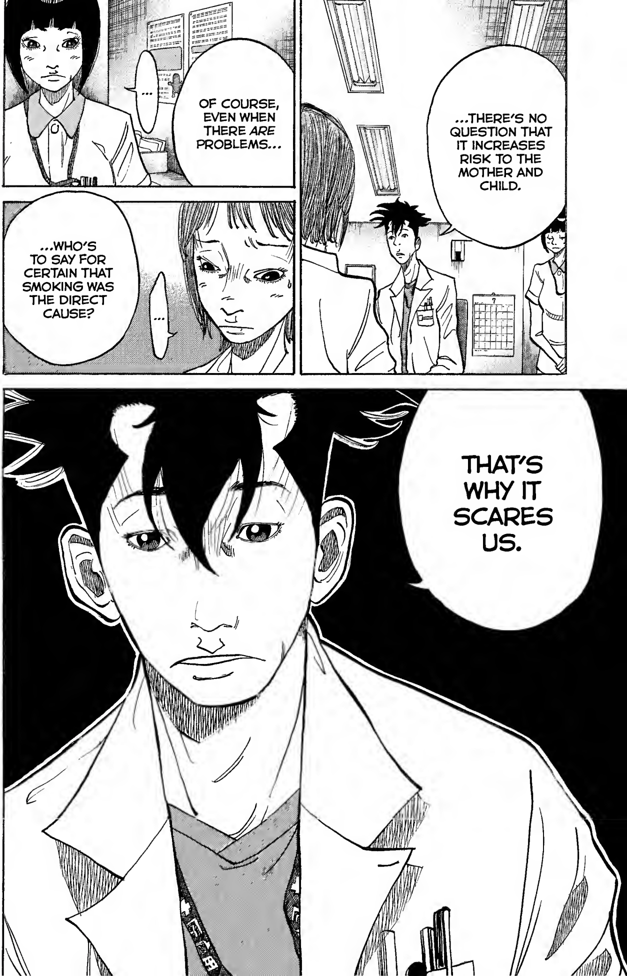

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S PREGNANT NOW.
BESIDES, THE STRESS OF QUITTING SMOKING...
...IS ON YOUR SHOULDERS, KIMURA-SAN.
NOT THE BABY'S.
...
SMOKING HAS A NUMBER OF ADVERSE EFFECTS ON CHILDREN IN THE WOMB.
FIRST, THERE'S THE MATTER OF BIRTH WEIGHT.

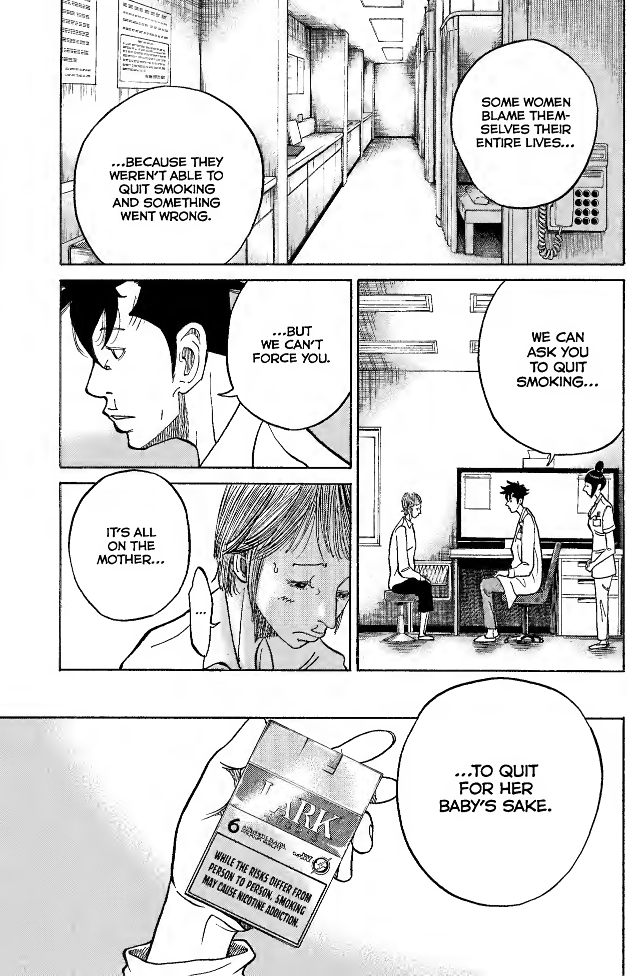

SMOKING CAUSES YOUR BLOOD VESSELS TO CONSTRICT.
THAT MEANS YOUR BABY DOESN'T RECEIVE ADEQUATE OXYGEN OR NUTRIENTS.
THAT INCREASES THE RISK OF LOW BIRTH WEIGHT.
FURTHERMORE, THERE'S SOME EVIDENCE THAT SMOKING...
...CAN INFLUENCE THE PSYCHOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHILD, AS WELL.
IT DOUBLES YOUR RISK OF MISCARRIAGE.
AND ON TOP OF THAT, YOUR CHANCES OF PREMATURE DELIVERY MAY INCREASE BY AS MUCH AS 50%.
BUT WHAT WE'RE REALLY WORRIED ABOUT HERE IS THE CHANCE OF PLACENTAL ABRUPTION.

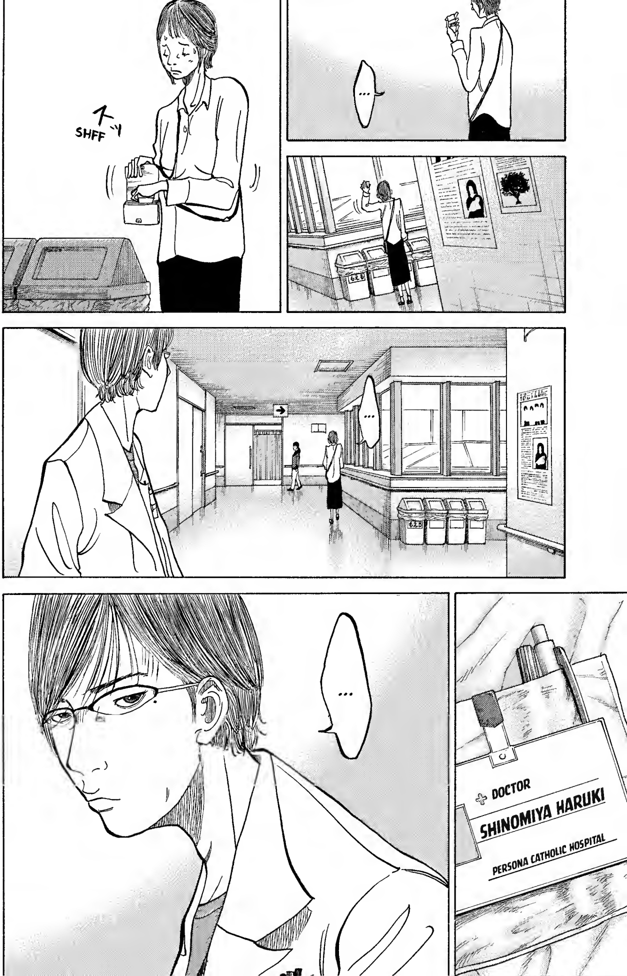

PLACENTAL…
PLACENTAL ABRUPTION.
PREMATURE SEPARATION OF THE PLACENTA.
THAT'S WHEN IN PREGNANCY, OR DURING BIRTH…
…THE PLACENTA SEPARATES FROM THE WALL OF THE UTERUS BEFORE THE BABY IS BORN.
IT CUTS OFF THE SUPPLY OF OXYGEN AND NUTRIENTS ENTIRELY…
…RESULTING IN HYPOXEMIA AND CIRCULATORY FAILURE.
IN A WORST-CASE SCENARIO, IT LEADS TO FETAL DEATH.
YOU MEAN MY BABY…
…COULD DIE?
IN BIRTHS WHERE PREMATURE SEPARATION OF THE PLACENTA OCCURS, THE INFANT MORTALITY RATE…

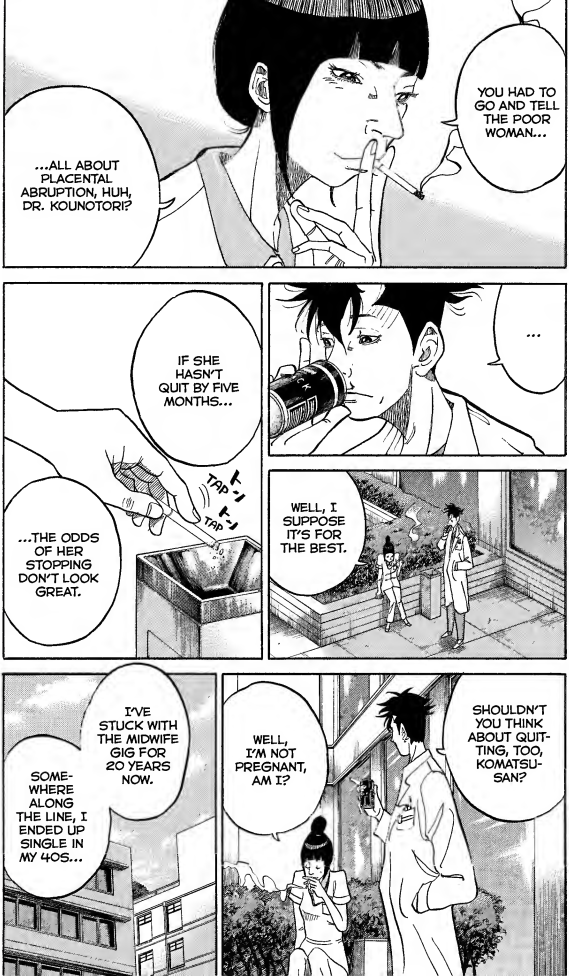

...IS SOMEWHERE BETWEEN 30...
...AND 50%.
50%...
IT ALSO CARRIES THE RISK...
...OF HEMORRHAGE FOR THE MOTHER.
IT CAN REQUIRE MASSIVE TRANSFUSION...
...OR A HYSTERECTOMY.
IN EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES,
WHICH ACCOUNT FOR ABOUT 4 TO 10% OF CASES ...

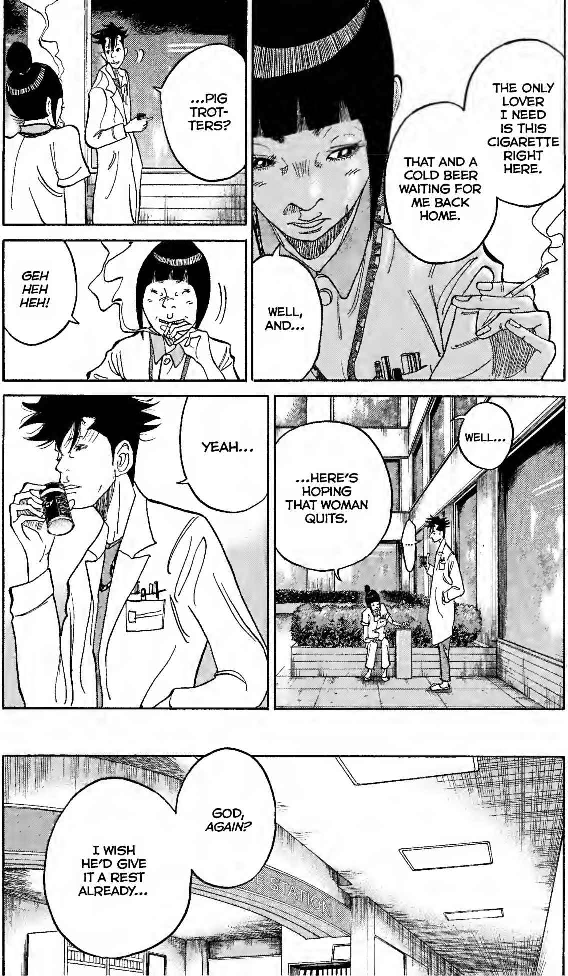

...IT LEADS TO THE DEATH OF THE MOTHER.
...
PREMATURE SEPARATION OCCURS IN ABOUT 1-2% OF ALL NORMAL BIRTHS.
BUT FOR WOMEN WHO SMOKE DURING PREGNANCY...
...THE RISK ESSENTIALLY DOUBLES.
...
SO YOU'RE SAYING I'D... BETTER QUIT.
THAT'S RIGHT.
WHILE IT'S TRUE THERE ARE MANY WOMEN OUT THERE LIKE YOUR FRIEND,
WHO KEEP SMOKING AND MAKE IT THROUGH PREGNANCY JUST FINE...

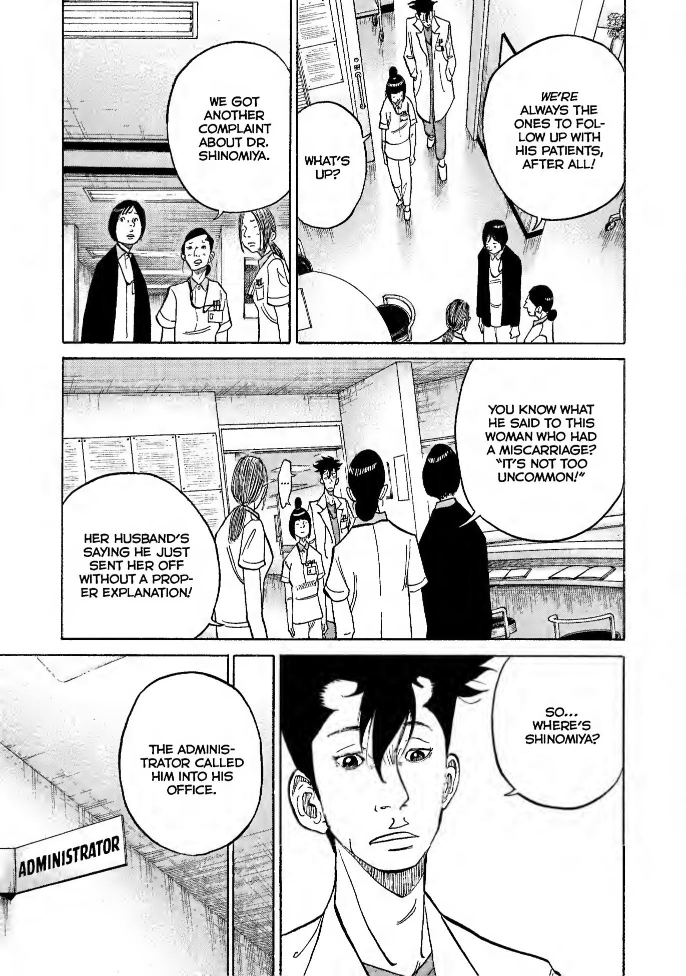

...
OF COURSE, EVEN WHEN THERE *ARE* PROBLEMS...
...WHO'S TO SAY FOR CERTAIN THAT SMOKING WAS THE DIRECT CAUSE?
...
...THERE'S NO QUESTION THAT IT INCREASES RISK TO THE MOTHER AND CHILD.
THAT'S WHY IT SCARES US.

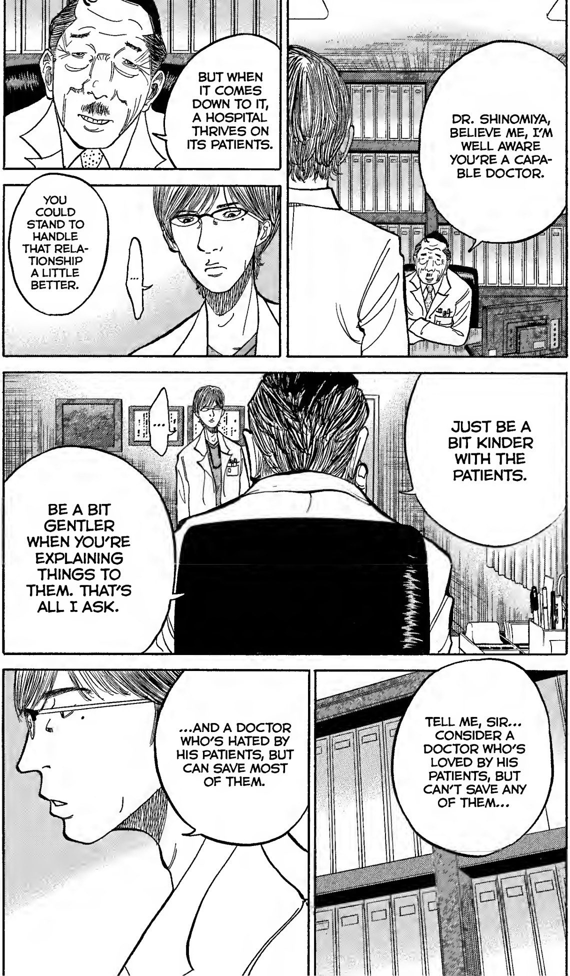

SOME WOMEN BLAME THEMSELVES THEIR ENTIRE LIVES...
...BECAUSE THEY WEREN'T ABLE TO QUIT SMOKING AND SOMETHING WENT WRONG.
WE CAN ASK YOU TO QUIT SMOKING...
...BUT WE CAN'T FORCE YOU.
IT'S ALL ON THE MOTHER...
...
...TO QUIT FOR HER BABY'S SAKE.
LARK
6
AUTHENTIC FLAVOR PREMIUM QUALITY
MINT CAPSULE
WHILE THE RISKS DIFFER FROM PERSON TO PERSON, SMOKING MAY CAUSE NICOTINE ADDICTION.

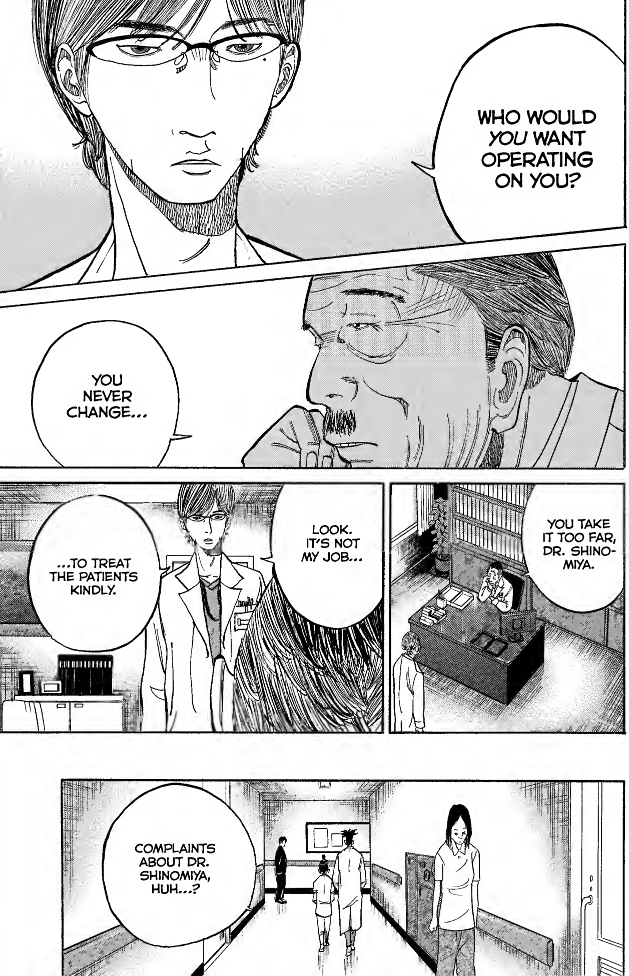

...
スーッ
SHFF
...
DOCTOR
SHINOMIYA HARUKI
PERSONA CATHOLIC HOSPITAL
...

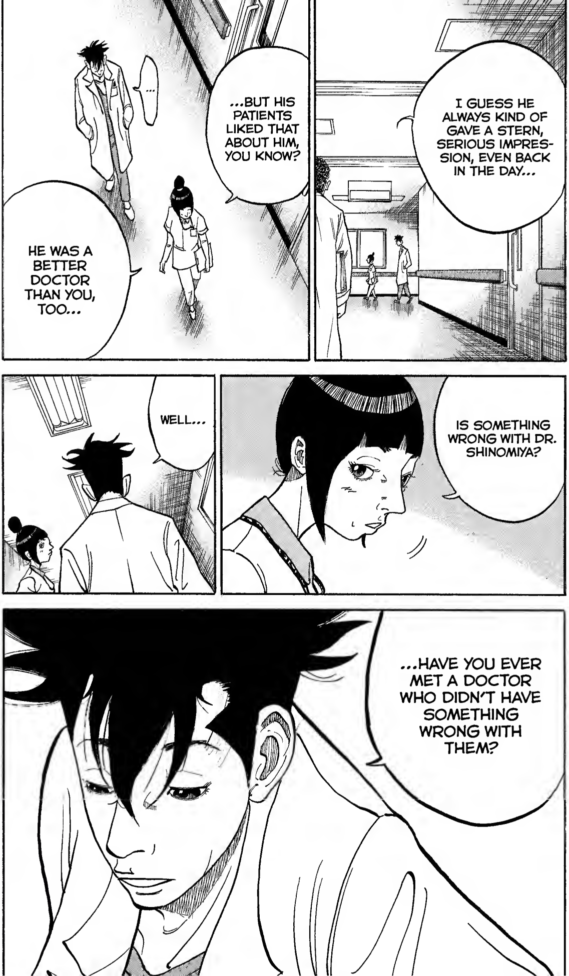

YOU HAD TO GO AND TELL THE POOR WOMAN...
...ALL ABOUT PLACENTAL ABRUPTION, HUH, DR. KOUNOTORI?
...
WELL, I SUPPOSE IT'S FOR THE BEST.
IF SHE HASN'T QUIT BY FIVE MONTHS...
TAP
TAP
...THE ODDS OF HER STOPPING DON'T LOOK GREAT.
SHOULDN'T YOU THINK ABOUT QUITTING, TOO, KOMATSU-SAN?
WELL, I'M NOT PREGNANT, AM I?
I'VE STUCK WITH THE MIDWIFE GIG FOR 20 YEARS NOW.
SOMEWHERE ALONG THE LINE, I ENDED UP SINGLE IN MY 40S...


...PIG TROTTERS?
GEH HEH HEH!
WELL, AND...
THE ONLY LOVER I NEED IS THIS CIGARETTE RIGHT HERE.
THAT AND A COLD BEER WAITING FOR ME BACK HOME.
WELL...
...HERE'S HOPING THAT WOMAN QUITS.
...
YEAH...
GOD, *AGAIN?*
I WISH HE'D GIVE IT A REST ALREADY...
E STATION

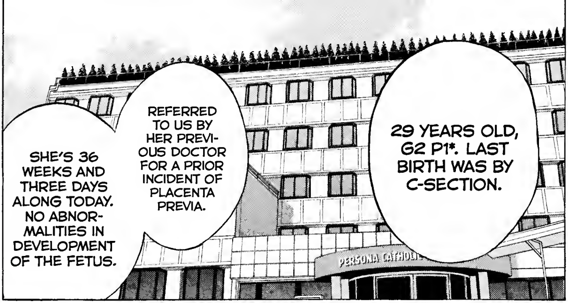

WE'RE ALWAYS THE ONES TO FOLLOW UP WITH HIS PATIENTS, AFTER ALL!
WHAT'S UP?
WE GOT ANOTHER COMPLAINT ABOUT DR. SHINOMIYA.
YOU KNOW WHAT HE SAID TO THIS WOMAN WHO HAD A MISCARRIAGE? "IT'S NOT TOO UNCOMMON!"
...
HER HUSBAND'S SAYING HE JUST SENT HER OFF WITHOUT A PROPER EXPLANATION!
SO... WHERE'S SHINOMIYA?
THE ADMINISTRATOR CALLED HIM INTO HIS OFFICE.
ADMINISTRATOR


DR. SHINOMIYA, BELIEVE ME, I'M WELL AWARE YOU'RE A CAPABLE DOCTOR.
BUT WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO IT, A HOSPITAL THRIVES ON ITS PATIENTS.
YOU COULD STAND TO HANDLE THAT RELATIONSHIP A LITTLE BETTER.
...
JUST BE A BIT KINDER WITH THE PATIENTS.
...
BE A BIT GENTLER WHEN YOU'RE EXPLAINING THINGS TO THEM. THAT'S ALL I ASK.
TELL ME, SIR... CONSIDER A DOCTOR WHO'S LOVED BY HIS PATIENTS, BUT CAN'T SAVE ANY OF THEM...
...AND A DOCTOR WHO'S HATED BY HIS PATIENTS, BUT CAN SAVE MOST OF THEM.

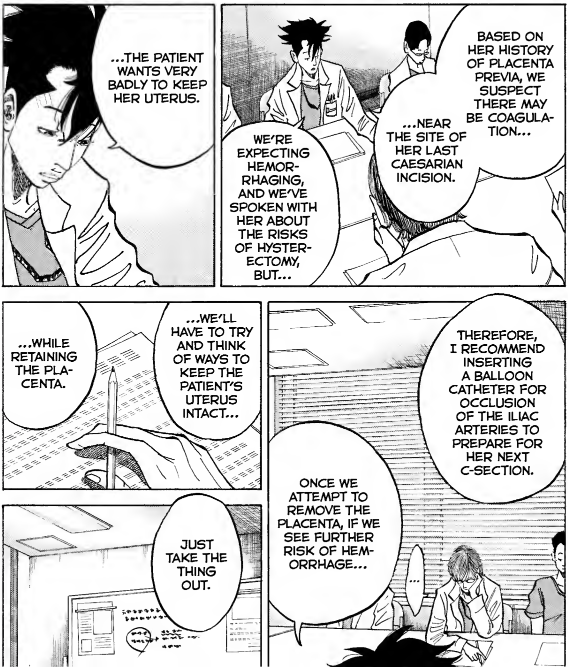

WHO WOULD *YOU* WANT OPERATING ON YOU?
YOU NEVER CHANGE...
YOU TAKE IT TOO FAR, DR. SHINOMIYA.
LOOK. IT'S NOT MY JOB...
...TO TREAT THE PATIENTS KINDLY.
COMPLAINTS ABOUT DR. SHINOMIYA, HUH...?

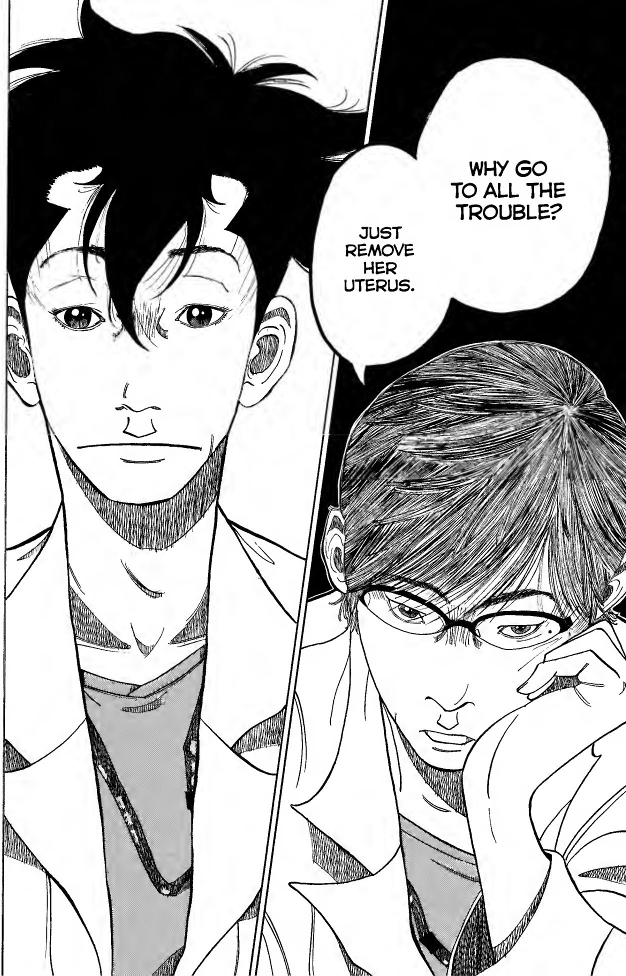

I GUESS HE ALWAYS KIND OF GAVE A STERN, SERIOUS IMPRESSION, EVEN BACK IN THE DAY...
...BUT HIS PATIENTS LIKED THAT ABOUT HIM, YOU KNOW?
...
HE WAS A BETTER DOCTOR THAN YOU, TOO...
IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH DR. SHINOMIYA?
WELL...
...HAVE YOU EVER MET A DOCTOR WHO DIDN'T HAVE SOMETHING WRONG WITH THEM?

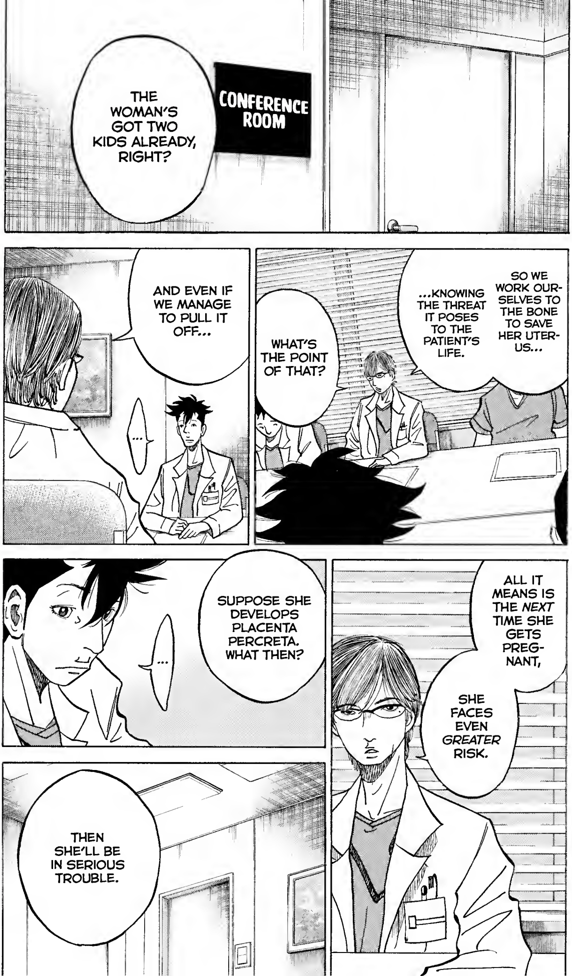
MATERNAL SMOKING (1) SIDE A / END

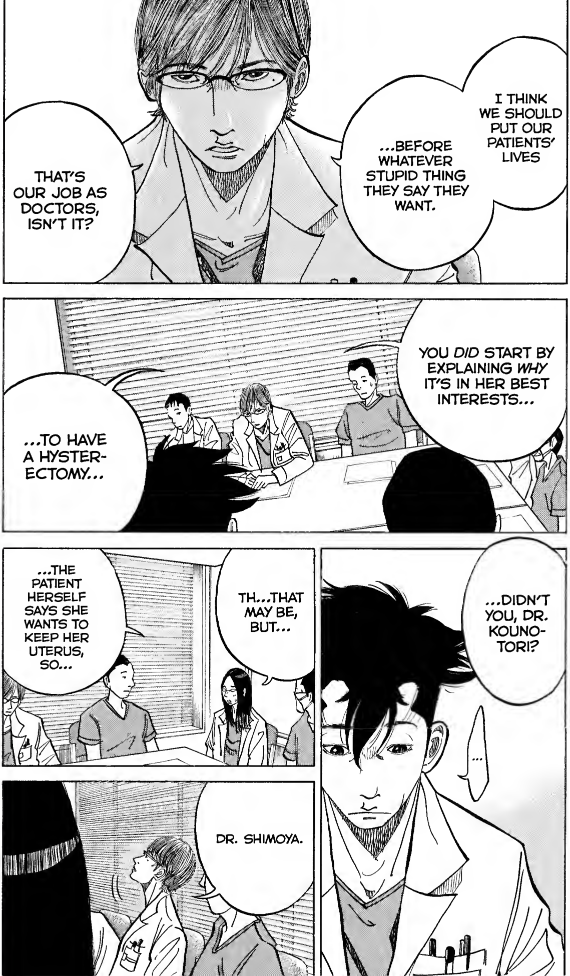

29 YEARS OLD, G2 P1*. LAST BIRTH WAS BY C-SECTION.
REFERRED TO US BY HER PREVIOUS DOCTOR FOR A PRIOR INCIDENT OF PLACENTA PREVIA.
SHE'S 36 WEEKS AND THREE DAYS ALONG TODAY. NO ABNORMALITIES IN DEVELOPMENT OF THE FETUS.
PERSONA CATHOLI

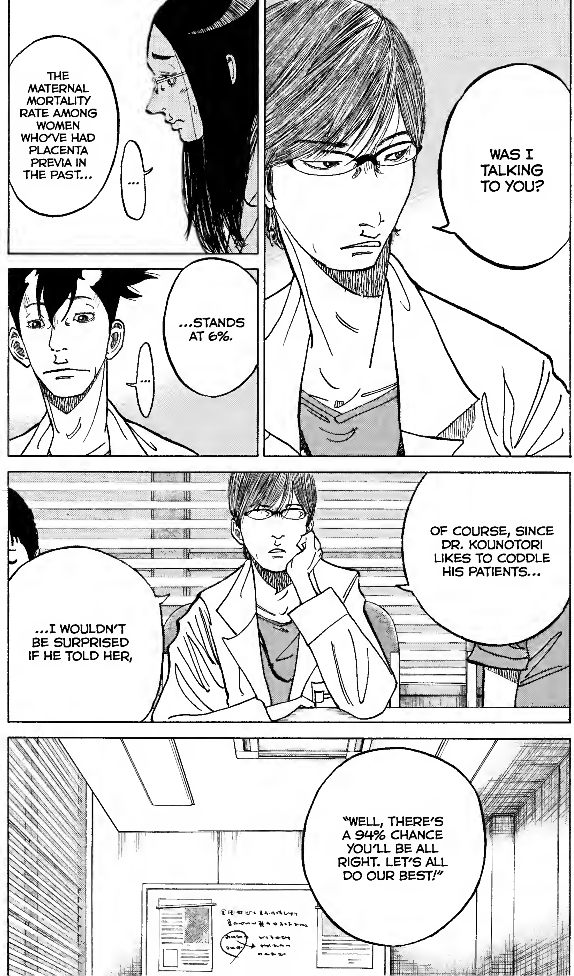
*G AND P: GRAVIDITY AND PARITY. NUMBER OF PREGNANCIES IN TOTAL AND NUMBER CARRIED TO FETAL VIABILITY.

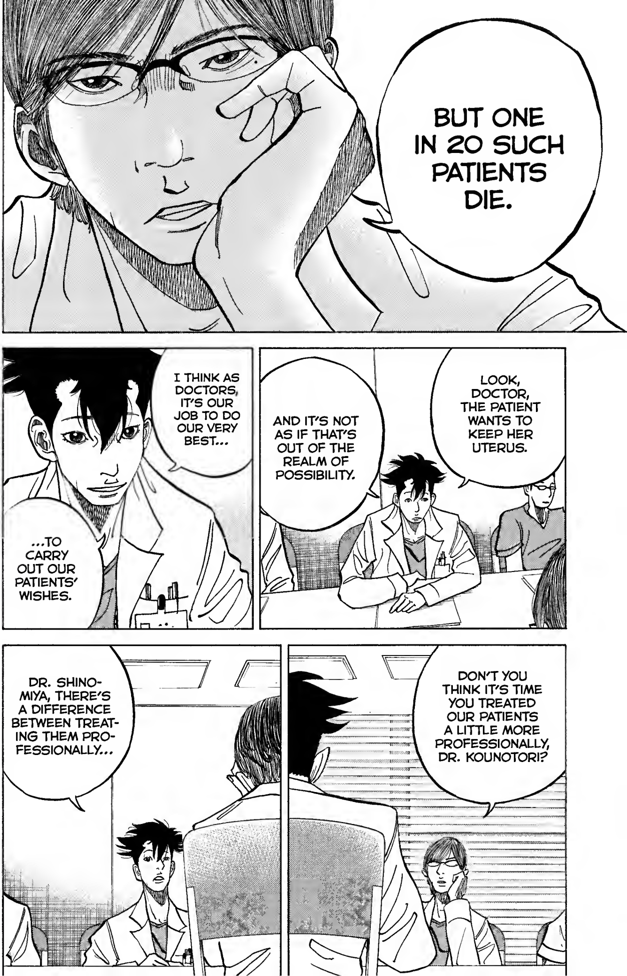

BASED ON HER HISTORY OF PLACENTA PREVIA, WE SUSPECT THERE MAY BE COAGULATION...
...NEAR THE SITE OF HER LAST CAESARIAN INCISION.
WE'RE EXPECTING HEMORRHAGING, AND WE'VE SPOKEN WITH HER ABOUT THE RISKS OF HYSTERECTOMY, BUT...
...THE PATIENT WANTS VERY BADLY TO KEEP HER UTERUS.
THEREFORE, I RECOMMEND INSERTING A BALLOON CATHETER FOR OCCLUSION OF THE ILIAC ARTERIES TO PREPARE FOR HER NEXT C-SECTION.
ONCE WE ATTEMPT TO REMOVE THE PLACENTA, IF WE SEE FURTHER RISK OF HEMORRHAGE...
...WE'LL HAVE TO TRY AND THINK OF WAYS TO KEEP THE PATIENT'S UTERUS INTACT...
...WHILE RETAINING THE PLACENTA.
...
JUST TAKE THE THING OUT.

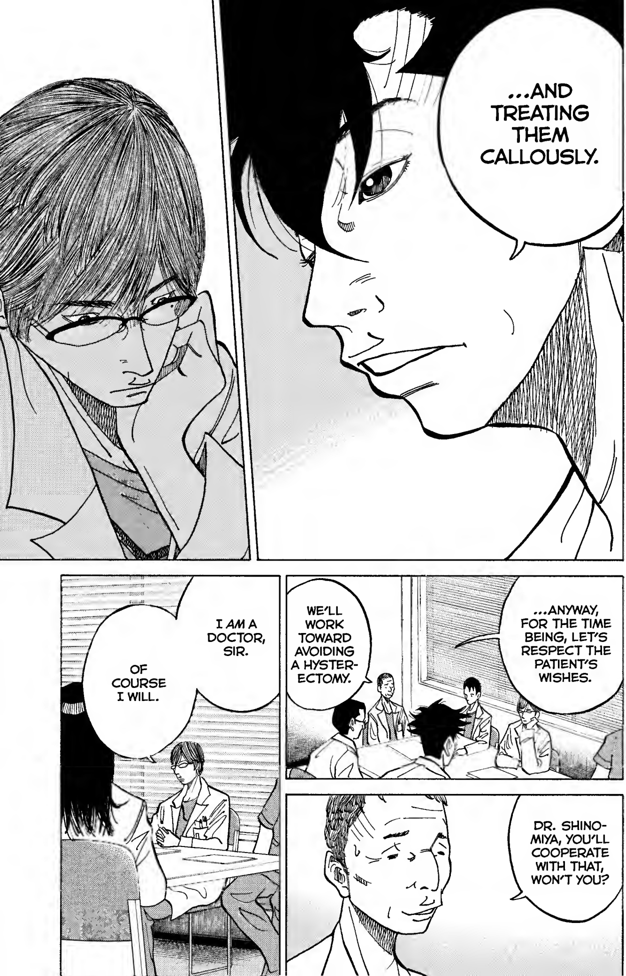

WHY GO TO ALL THE TROUBLE?
JUST REMOVE HER UTERUS.

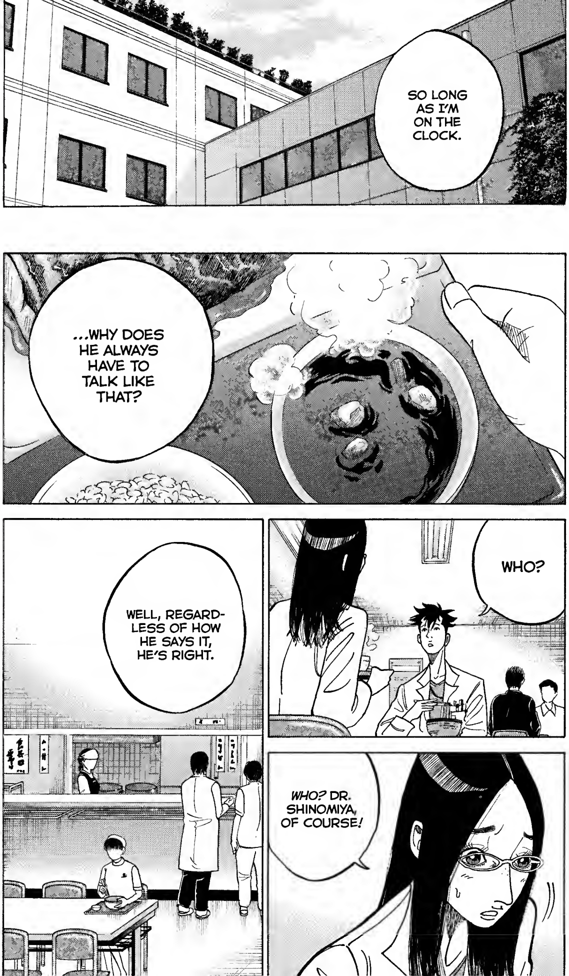

CONFERENCE ROOM
THE WOMAN'S GOT TWO KIDS ALREADY, RIGHT?
SO WE WORK OURSELVES TO THE BONE TO SAVE HER UTERUS...
...KNOWING THE THREAT IT POSES TO THE PATIENT'S LIFE.
WHAT'S THE POINT OF THAT?
AND EVEN IF WE MANAGE TO PULL IT OFF...
...
ALL IT MEANS IS THE *NEXT* TIME SHE GETS PREGNANT,
SHE FACES EVEN *GREATER* RISK.
SUPPOSE SHE DEVELOPS PLACENTA PERCRETA. WHAT THEN?
...
THEN SHE'LL BE IN SERIOUS TROUBLE.

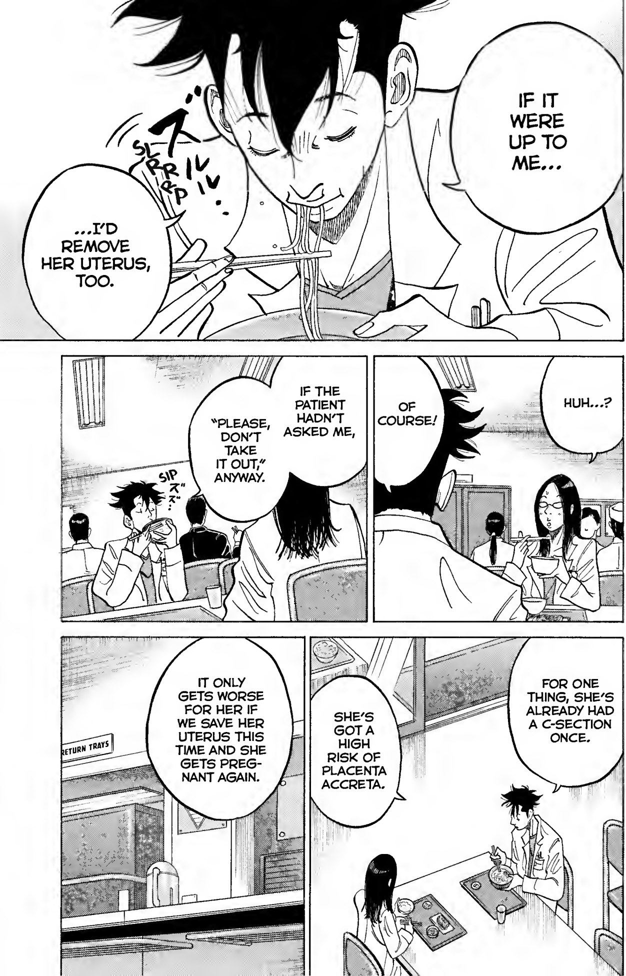

I THINK WE SHOULD PUT OUR PATIENTS' LIVES
...BEFORE WHATEVER STUPID THING THEY SAY THEY WANT.
THAT'S OUR JOB AS DOCTORS, ISN'T IT?
YOU *DID* START BY EXPLAINING *WHY* IT'S IN HER BEST INTERESTS...
...TO HAVE A HYSTERECTOMY...
...DIDN'T YOU, DR. KOUNOTORI?
...
TH...THAT MAY BE, BUT...
...THE PATIENT HERSELF SAYS SHE WANTS TO KEEP HER UTERUS, SO...
DR. SHIMOYA.

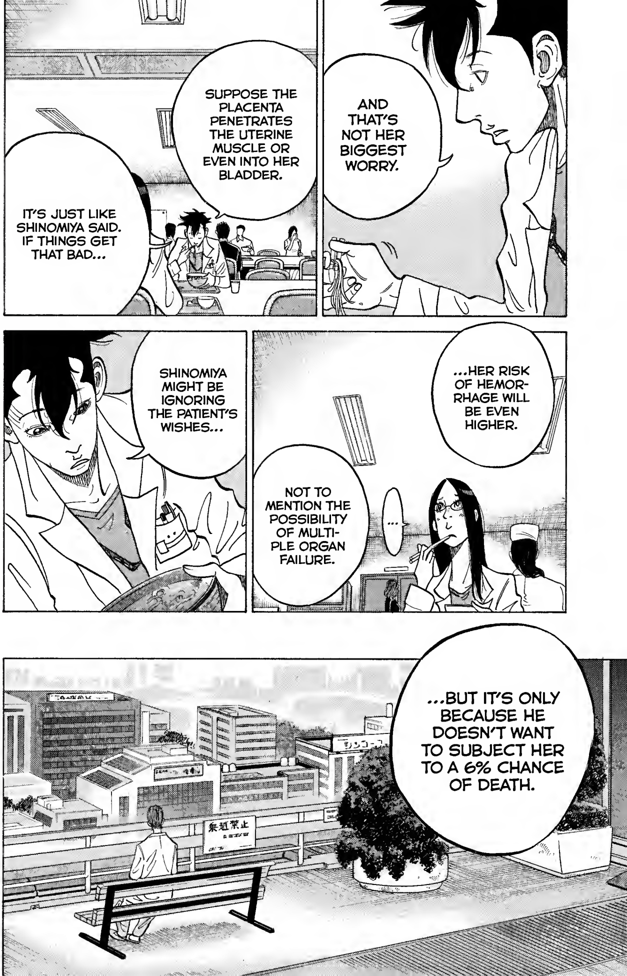

WAS I TALKING TO YOU?
THE MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE AMONG WOMEN WHO'VE HAD PLACENTA PREVIA IN THE PAST...
...
...STANDS AT 6%.
...
OF COURSE, SINCE DR. KOUNOTORI LIKES TO CODDLE HIS PATIENTS...
...I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF HE TOLD HER,
"WELL, THERE'S A 94% CHANCE YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT. LET'S ALL DO OUR BEST!"

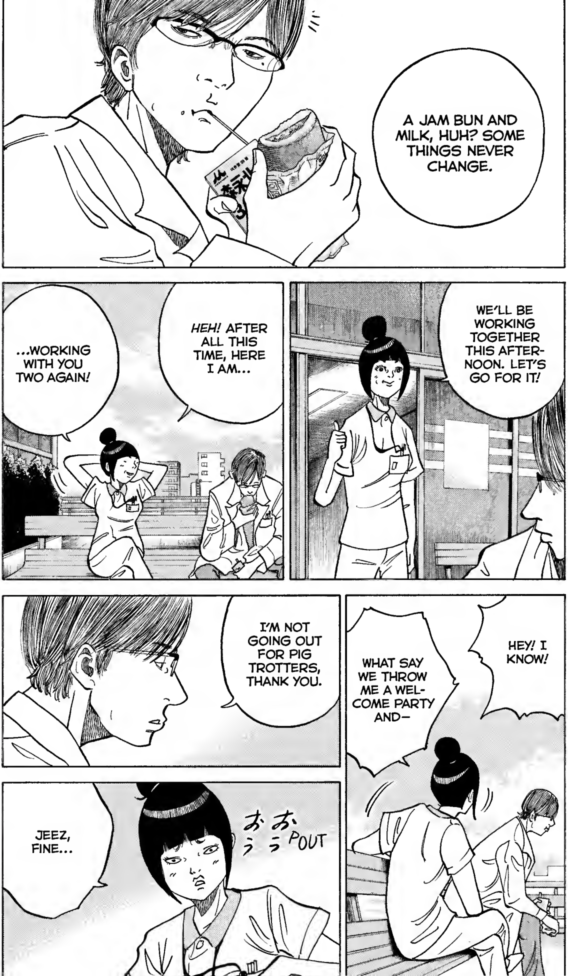

BUT ONE IN 20 SUCH PATIENTS DIE.
LOOK, DOCTOR, THE PATIENT WANTS TO KEEP HER UTERUS.
AND IT'S NOT AS IF THAT'S OUT OF THE REALM OF POSSIBILITY.
I THINK AS DOCTORS, IT'S OUR JOB TO DO OUR VERY BEST...
...TO CARRY OUT OUR PATIENTS' WISHES.
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S TIME YOU TREATED OUR PATIENTS A LITTLE MORE PROFESSIONALLY, DR. KOUNOTORI?
DR. SHINOMIYA, THERE'S A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TREATING THEM PROFESSIONALLY...

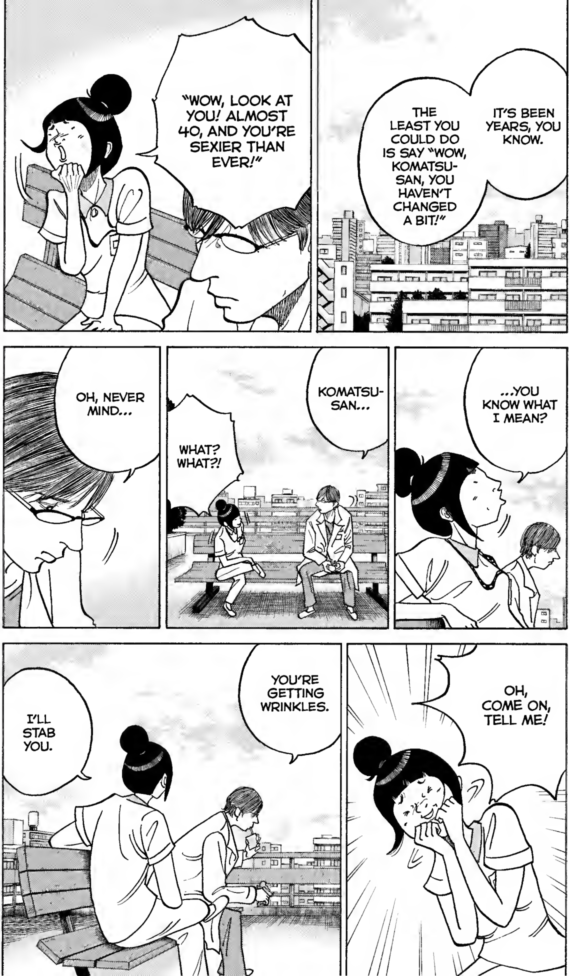

...AND TREATING THEM CALLOUSLY.
...ANYWAY, FOR THE TIME BEING, LET'S RESPECT THE PATIENT'S WISHES.
WE'LL WORK TOWARD AVOIDING A HYSTERECTOMY.
DR. SHINOMIYA, YOU'LL COOPERATE WITH THAT, WON'T YOU?
I *AM* A DOCTOR, SIR.
OF COURSE I WILL.

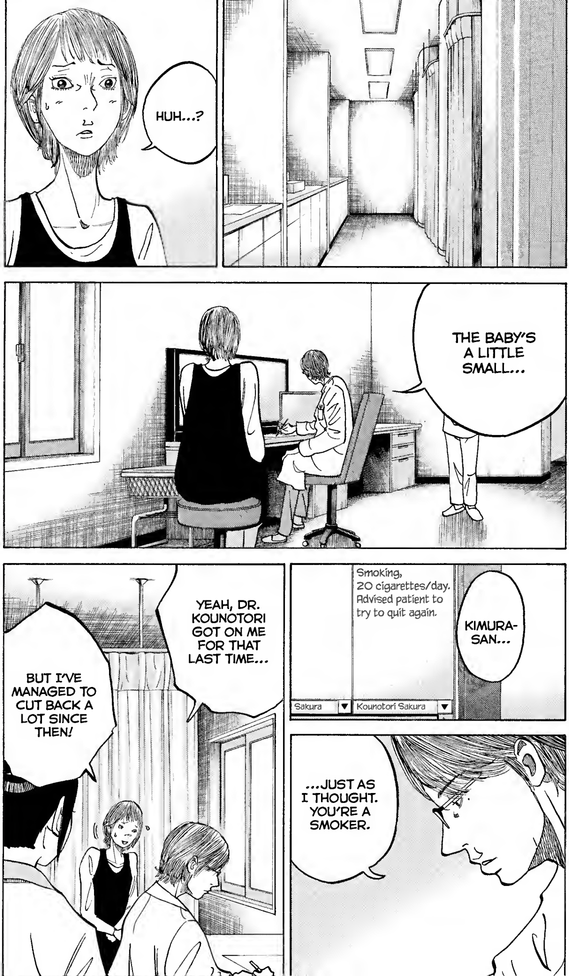

SO LONG AS I'M ON THE CLOCK.
...WHY DOES HE ALWAYS HAVE TO TALK LIKE THAT?
WELL, REGARDLESS OF HOW HE SAYS IT, HE'S RIGHT.
WHO?
WHO? DR. SHINOMIYA, OF COURSE!

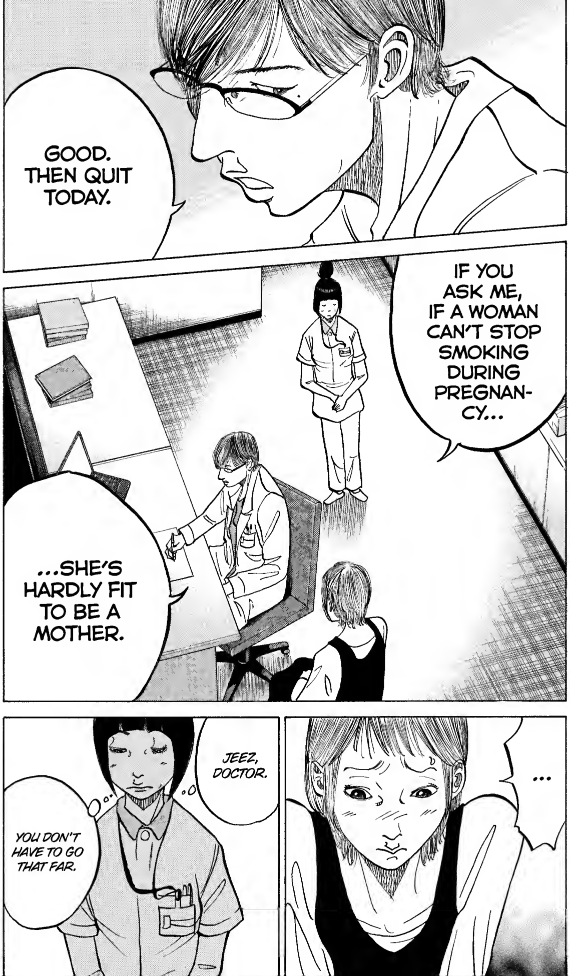

IF IT WERE UP TO ME...
ズ
SLRRRP
...I'D REMOVE HER UTERUS, TOO.
HUH...?
OF COURSE!
IF THE PATIENT HADN'T ASKED ME,
"PLEASE, DON'T TAKE IT OUT," ANYWAY.
SIP
ズズ
FOR ONE THING, SHE'S ALREADY HAD A C-SECTION ONCE.
SHE'S GOT A HIGH RISK OF PLACENTA ACCRETA.
IT ONLY GETS WORSE FOR HER IF WE SAVE HER UTERUS THIS TIME AND SHE GETS PREGNANT AGAIN.
RETURN TRAYS

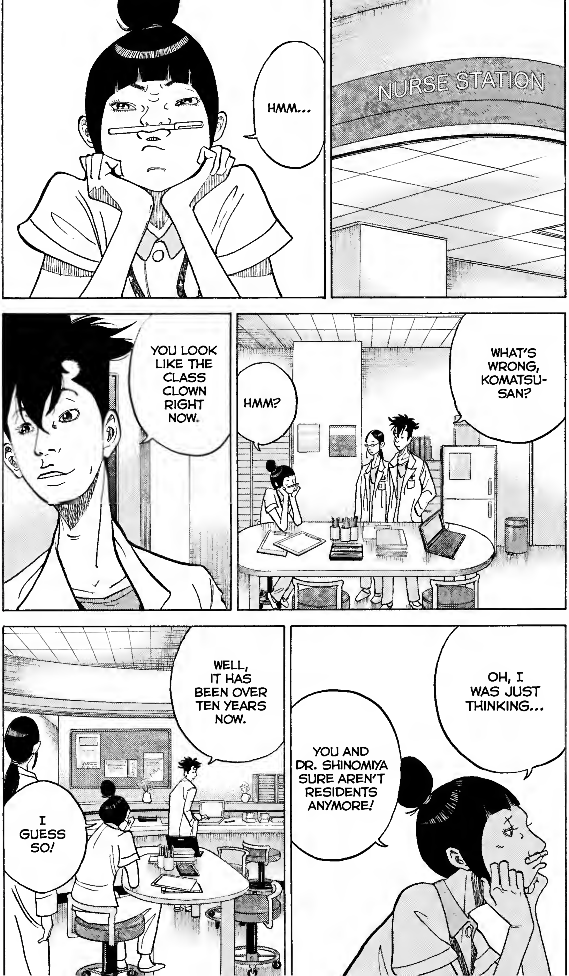

AND THAT'S NOT HER BIGGEST WORRY.
SUPPOSE THE PLACENTA PENETRATES THE UTERINE MUSCLE OR EVEN INTO HER BLADDER.
IT'S JUST LIKE SHINOMIYA SAID. IF THINGS GET THAT BAD...
...HER RISK OF HEMORRHAGE WILL BE EVEN HIGHER.
NOT TO MENTION THE POSSIBILITY OF MULTIPLE ORGAN FAILURE.
...
SHINOMIYA MIGHT BE IGNORING THE PATIENT'S WISHES...
...BUT IT'S ONLY BECAUSE HE DOESN'T WANT TO SUBJECT HER TO A 6% CHANCE OF DEATH.

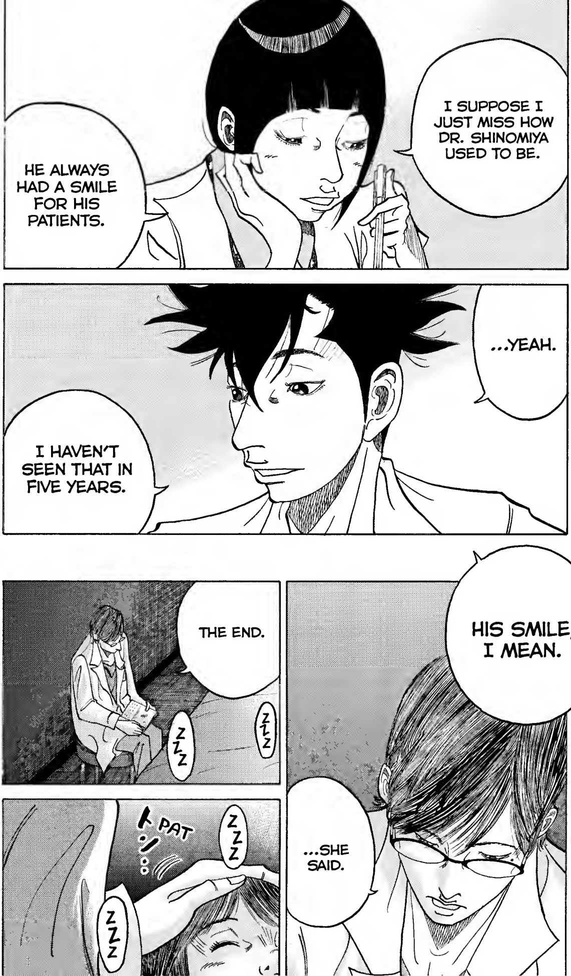

A JAM BUN AND MILK, HUH? SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE.
WE'LL BE WORKING TOGETHER THIS AFTERNOON. LET'S GO FOR IT!
HEH! AFTER ALL THIS TIME, HERE I AM...
...WORKING WITH YOU TWO AGAIN!
HEY! I KNOW!
WHAT SAY WE THROW ME A WELCOME PARTY AND—
I'M NOT GOING OUT FOR PIG TROTTERS, THANK YOU.
POUT
JEEZ, FINE...

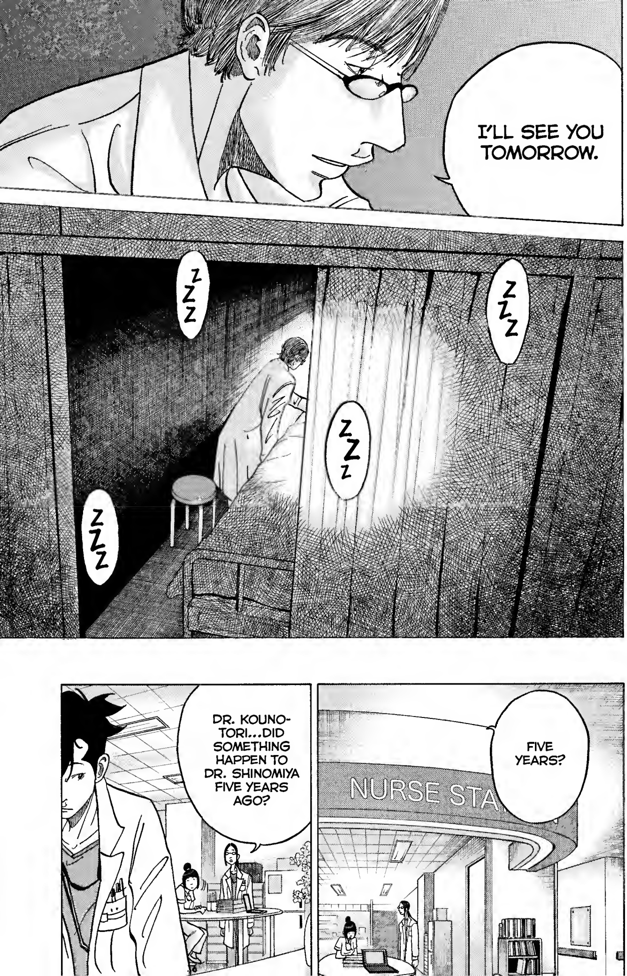

IT'S BEEN YEARS, YOU KNOW.
THE LEAST YOU COULD DO IS SAY "WOW, KOMATSU-SAN, YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT!"
"WOW, LOOK AT YOU! ALMOST 40, AND YOU'RE SEXIER THAN EVER!"
...YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
KOMATSU-SAN...
WHAT? WHAT?!
OH, NEVER MIND...
OH, COME ON, TELL ME!
YOU'RE GETTING WRINKLES.
I'LL STAB YOU.

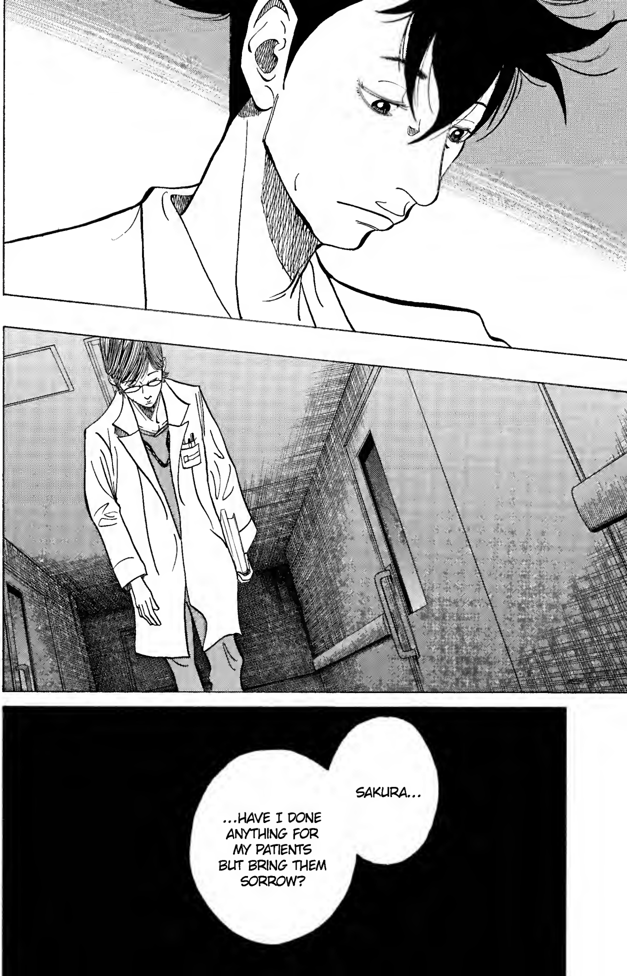

HUH...?
THE BABY'S A LITTLE SMALL...
KIMURA-SAN...
Smoking, 20 cigarettes/day. Advised patient to try to quit again.
Sakura
Kounotori Sakura
...JUST AS I THOUGHT. YOU'RE A SMOKER.
YEAH, DR. KOUNOTORI GOT ON ME FOR THAT LAST TIME...
BUT I'VE MANAGED TO CUT BACK A LOT SINCE THEN!


GOOD. THEN QUIT TODAY.
IF YOU ASK ME, IF A WOMAN CAN'T STOP SMOKING DURING PREGNANCY...
...SHE'S HARDLY FIT TO BE A MOTHER.
...
JEEZ, DOCTOR.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO THAT FAR.


NURSE STATION
HMM...
WHAT'S WRONG, KOMATSU-SAN?
HMM?
YOU LOOK LIKE THE CLASS CLOWN RIGHT NOW.
OH, I WAS JUST THINKING...
YOU AND DR. SHINOMIYA SURE AREN'T RESIDENTS ANYMORE!
WELL, IT HAS BEEN OVER TEN YEARS NOW.
I GUESS SO!

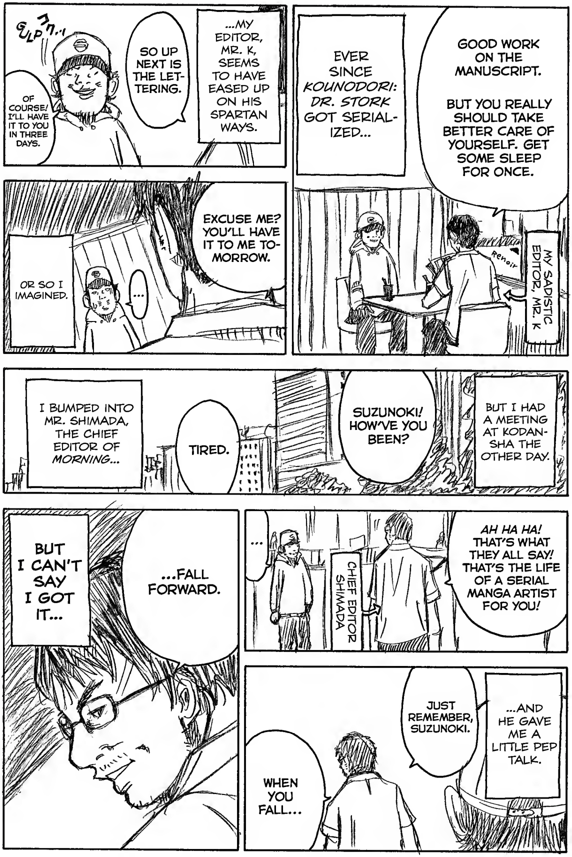

I SUPPOSE I JUST MISS HOW DR. SHINOMIYA USED TO BE.
HE ALWAYS HAD A SMILE FOR HIS PATIENTS.
...YEAH.
I HAVEN'T SEEN THAT IN FIVE YEARS.
HIS SMILE, I MEAN.
...SHE SAID.
THE END.
ZZZ
ZZZ
ZZZ
PAT
ZZZ

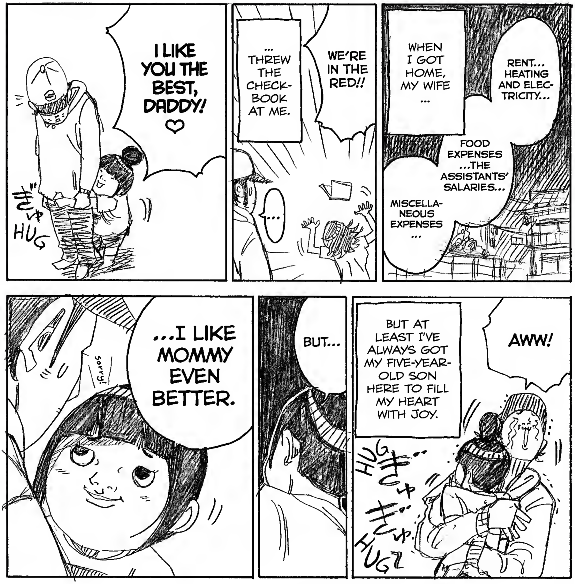

I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW.
ZZZ
ZZZ
ZZZ
ZZZ
DR. KOUNOTORI...DID SOMETHING HAPPEN TO DR. SHINOMIYA FIVE YEARS AGO?
NURSE STA
FIVE YEARS?

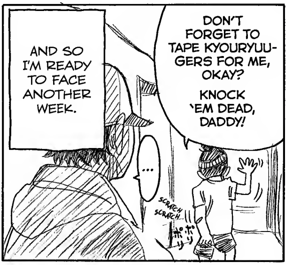

SAKURA...
...HAVE I DONE ANYTHING FOR MY PATIENTS BUT BRING THEM SORROW?

MATERNAL SMOKING (1) SIDE B / END

To be continued in Maternal Smoking (2), volume 3.


GOOD WORK ON THE MANUSCRIPT.
BUT YOU REALLY SHOULD TAKE BETTER CARE OF YOURSELF. GET SOME SLEEP FOR ONCE.
EVER SINCE *KOUNODORI: DR. STORK* GOT SERIALIZED...
Renoir
MY SADISTIC EDITOR, MR. K
...MY EDITOR, MR. K, SEEMS TO HAVE EASED UP ON HIS SPARTAN WAYS.
SO UP NEXT IS THE LETTERING.
GULP
OF COURSE! I'LL HAVE IT TO YOU IN THREE DAYS.
EXCUSE ME? YOU'LL HAVE IT TO ME TOMORROW.
...
OR SO I IMAGINED.
BUT I HAD A MEETING AT KODANSHA THE OTHER DAY.
SUZUNOKI! HOW'VE YOU BEEN?
TIRED.
I BUMPED INTO MR. SHIMADA, THE CHIEF EDITOR OF *MORNING*...
AH HA HA! THAT'S WHAT THEY ALL SAY! THAT'S THE LIFE OF A SERIAL MANGA ARTIST FOR YOU!
CHIEF EDITOR SHIMADA
...
...AND HE GAVE ME A LITTLE PEP TALK.
JUST REMEMBER, SUZUNOKI.
WHEN YOU FALL...
...FALL FORWARD.
BUT I CAN'T SAY I GOT IT...


WHEN I GOT HOME, MY WIFE ...
RENT... HEATING AND ELECTRICITY...
FOOD EXPENSES ...THE ASSISTANTS' SALARIES...
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES ...
WE'RE IN THE RED!!
... THREW THE CHECKBOOK AT ME.
...
I LIKE YOU THE BEST, DADDY! ♡
ぎゅ HUG
AWW!
BUT AT LEAST I'VE ALWAYS GOT MY FIVE-YEAR-OLD SON HERE TO FILL MY HEART WITH JOY.
ぎゅ HUG
ぎゅ HUG
BUT...
...I LIKE MOMMY EVEN BETTER.
sorry!


DON'T FORGET TO TAPE KYOURYUUGERS FOR ME, OKAY?
KNOCK 'EM DEAD, DADDY!
AND SO I'M READY TO FACE ANOTHER WEEK.
...
SCRATCH SCRATCH ポリポリ

Thank you for reading volume 2 of Kounodori: Dr. Stork!

Dr. Song Mihyon, the renowned OB/GYN and producer of the manga The Dancing OB/GYN, had some very kind things to say about my work.

When I started work on Kounodori: Dr. Stork, The Dancing OB/GYN, which Dr. Song put together with Yoshikawa Keito, was a big influence on me. I can't tell you what an honor this is.

Just like volume 1, volume 2 of Kounodori: Dr. Stork wouldn't have gotten off the ground without the very generous support I received from lots of people around me.

Thank you so, so, so much!!!

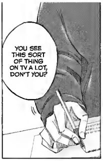
—Suzunoki Yuu

Translation Notes

Inkan, page 55

[47.1]

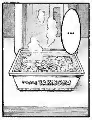
Look closely at the form of consent on page 55 and you'll see a footnote asking signatories without stamps to sign in ink. You've probably seen these stamps before. Many Japanese people own a small, round red stamp with their surname on it; these stamps are called *hanko* or *inkan*. They are used to notarize official documents, and many people purchase them at a discount through their employer. The fact that the working-class Ibas don't have one is a subtle hint at their lower social status compared to the Nomuras: either they can't afford one, or don't see the need.


YOU SEE THIS SORT OF THING ON TV A LOT, DON'T YOU?

Poyang Yakisoba, page 75

[75.5]

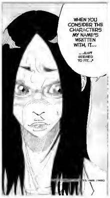
Dr. Kounotori's favorite brand of instant yakisoba, Poyang Yakisoba, is a play on a real Japanese brand: Peyang Yakisoba. Just like in the West, instant noodles don't exactly have a reputation as health food in Japan, which is why Dr. Kounotori's colleagues tease him about his yakisoba habit — they're loaded with sodium and, as a doctor, he should probably know better.



Shimoya's name, page 137

[137.3]

Shimoya's name is written with the characters "under" and "roof," which leads to some rather esoteric wordplay. It's an outdated term once used to describe the estates of feudal lords, but the roof above the main room of a residence is sometimes also called a *geya*, which, despite its pronunciation, is written with the same characters as Shimoya's name. What does this have to do with her career choice? Originally, Shimoya went on to explain, "when you think about what's under that roof…" The room under the *geya* is called a *moya*, literally a "mother room." She's sheepishly admitting that she didn't pick her profession for a good reason; she just did it because it seemed to fit with her name. Luckily, she learns that Dr. Kounotori, whose name means "stork," was the same way.

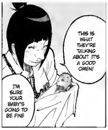

WHEN YOU CONSIDER THE CHARACTERS MY NAME'S WRITTEN WITH, IT...
...JUST SEEMED TO FIT...

"Born in a shirt," page 169

[169.2]

Fewer than one in every 80,000 babies are born covered partially or completely by a membrane called the amnion, or more colloquially, the "caul" or "cowl." While this presents some risk of hypoxemia, or insufficient blood oxygen levels, en-caul births are generally safe as the procedure to remove the caul is quite simple. Many cultures see en-caul births as a good omen, and some even once believed caul children possessed supernatural gifts.

Komatsu-san explains to Yamaguchi-san that there's a saying in Russian for people who seemed to be born into good fortune, "born in a shirt," that has its origins in this idea. While this is true, in the original Japanese, she used a phrase from the Japanese language: she tells her some people call caul children "koubouji," written with the characters for "happiness," "hat" and "child." Because this scene originally required substantial Japanese knowledge to understand, we chose to rewrite it a bit for the English version.


THIS IS WHAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT. IT'S A GOOD OMEN!
I'M SURE YOUR BABY'S GOING TO BE FINE

Kounodori: Dr. Stork 2

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

Kounodori: Dr. Stork volume 2 copyright © 2013 You Suzunoki
English translation copyright © 2017 You Suzunoki

All rights reserved.

First published in Japan in 2013 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.
Electronic Publishing rights for this English edition arranged through Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.

No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission from the copyright holders.

English digital edition published by Kodansha Advanced Media, LLC, San Francisco.

www.kodanshacomics.com

ISBN: 9781682336021

Digital Edition: 1.0.0

Translation by Erin Procter
Lettering by Darren Smith
Editing by Sarah Tilson
YKS Services LLC/SKY Japan, INC.